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Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-89-068
Tuesday
11 April 1989

Daily Report
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Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Meet in Berlin

USSR's Bessmertnykh Arrives

LD1004141389 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1351 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Berlin this afternoon to attend the meeting of the Warsaw Pact committee of foreign ministers. He was welcomed at Berlin-Schoenefeld Airport by Dr Herbert Krolikowski, [GDR] state secretary and first deputy foreign minister.

Romania's Totu Arrives

LD1004142189 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1356 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Ioan Totu, foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, arrived in Berlin this afternoon to attend the meeting of the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers committee. He was welcomed at Berlin-Schoenefeld airport by Dr Herbert Krolikowski, GDR secretary of state and and first deputy foreign minister.

Bulgaria's Mladenov Present

LD1004160689 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1449 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Petur Mladenov, member of the Politburo of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, arrived in Berlin this afternoon to attend the meeting of the Warsaw Pact member states' committee of the ministers of foreign affairs. He was welcomed at Berlin-Schoenefeld Airport by Dr. Herbert Krolikowksi, GDR secretary of state and first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Hungary's Varkonyi Attends

LD1004160989 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1520 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—This afternoon Dr Peter Varkonyi, minister of foreign affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, arrived in Berlin to participate in the meeting of the Warsaw Pact member states' committee of ministers of foreign affairs. He was welcomed at Berlin-Schoenefeld Airport by Dr Herbert Krolikowski, GDR secretary of state and first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Poland's Olechowski Arrives

LD1104085889 Warsaw PAP in English 0009 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin, April 10—Foreign ministers of the states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty arrived in Berlin to attend a session of the committee of foreign ministers of the Treaty, starting here on Tuesday, the ADN news agency reported.

Poland is represented by Tadeusz Olechowski.

Meeting Begins 11 Apr

LD1104083489 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0745 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—A routine meeting of the Warsaw Pact's foreign ministers committee began in Berlin on Tuesday morning. The main focus of the discussion is on the further implementation of the peace and disarmament program of the alliance of states, as well as on greater cooperation in Europe.

The meeting is being attended by the foreign minister of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Petur Mladenov; of the Hungarian People's Republic, Dr Peter Varkonyi; of the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer; of the People's Republic of Poland, Tadeusz Olechowski; and of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Ioan Totu; by the first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh; and by the foreign minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Jaromir Johanes.

At the start, GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer extended cordial greetings to his opposite numbers and the experts accompanying them. The meeting is taking place in the conference hall of the Council of Ministers building, where the ministers are sitting at a large, rectangular conference table, where each chair is marked with the national flag of the various treaty states. The press will be briefed on the results of the conference at an international news conference on Wednesday.

Romania's Balan Meets CEMA Officials

AU1004181089 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1735 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Budapest AGERPRES, 10/4/1989—While participating in the meeting of the CMEA Committee for Cooperation in Planning held in Budapest, the Romanian representative to the committee Radu Balan, chairman of the State Planning Committee, met chairmen of central planning bodies of CMEA member countries to examine questions related to bilateral coordination of economic plans for 1991-1995, as well as to the further expansion of economic cooperation and trade in the ongoing five-year plan period.

GDR Symposium on Radiation Protection Opens

AU0604102489 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 5 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] Dresden (ADN)—At an international symposium on radiation-protection physics which was opened on Tuesday [5 April], scientists from the Dresden Technical University are presenting a new type of solid-state detector for monitoring radiation levels in nuclear power plants to protect the people working there. The measuring instruments consist of electrodetectors that, as small ionization chambers, measure the radiation.

Scientists from the GDR, CSSR, SFRY, Poland, USSR, and Hungary are participating in the 4-day symposium.

Historian on 'Escalation of Violence' in Kosovo

AU0404134389 Tirana BASHKIMI in Albanian 30 Mar 89 p 4

[Article by Professor Arben Puto: "A Policy's Demagogy and Its Reality"]

[Text] Leading circles in Belgrade have never concealed their pretensions to set themselves up as the champions of democracy throughout the world. They describe Yugoslavia as a country with a social order embodying not only social justice but national equality. They consider Yugoslav society as always open to innovation and following all the most progressive tendencies of the contemporary era.

One of the most important aspects of this image that Yugoslavia has attempted to award itself is the country's particular role in world affairs, as an initiator and standard-bearer of the Nonaligned Movement, a defender of the rights of the peoples against all forms of oppression, colonialism, and racism, and an ardent and consistent supporter of the freedom and self-determination of nations.

However, even if some people here and there may once have believed this portrayal of Yugoslavia as a democratic country and a community built on the basis of the rights and mutual understanding of its peoples and nationalities, this belief has now been shaken to its foundations, perhaps irreparably.

The events in Kosovo transcend the province' borders and cast fresh light on the whole of Yugoslav reality. The Kosovo drama turns Yugoslavia back to the darkest of eras, which one imagined had vanished once and for all, to the age of pogroms and savage national oppression. This is a paradoxical and intolerable thing in Europe at the end of the 20th century. In fact, there has been no precedent for it in our continent since World War II. Today, Kosovo is the sole hotbed, the only region in Europe where order is imposed by tanks and bayonets, soldiers and police, and with the same brutality as in Chile, South Africa, or the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The news carried by the papers and the pictures on television are appalling. The entire province is held in an iron vise. The army and police are no longer confining themselves to demonstrative tank maneuvers, aircraft movements, and sabre-rattling, but are taking direct action against demonstrators, workers, students, and other citizens who cannot accept the violation of their rights. Dozens of deaths, hundreds and thousands of fresh cases of people imprisoned, dismissed from their jobs, or faced with compulsory work orders add to the large number of the persecuted, and those who have been languishing in jails for years. The imposition of a state of siege, the gunshots, murders, and injuries represent a new stage in the escalation of violence.

Under such conditions, agreement to the changes in the Serbian Constitution, changes that significantly restrict the province' autonomy, was "squeezed" out of the Kosovo Assembly. Serbian leaders are shouting about a victory in the "battle of Kosovo." They are celebrating it as an historic turning-point in the life of the republic and the entire federation. However, the Kosovo deputies cast their votes under the grim shadows of guns, tanks, and soldiers' bayonets.

The people of Kosovo made their real democratic decision on the constitutional amendments, not only in large public gatherings, but in hundreds of meetings in working collectives which spoke out against any restriction in the province' autonomy. During the 4 months between November 1988 and March this year, a real people's plebiscite took place in Kosovo, whose resonance cannot be drowned by the noise of tanks and aircraft.

Nor can attempts to brand this legitimate expression of will with slogans about Albanian nationalism and separatism be of any use. The purpose of these slogans is to justify the repressive measures and to shut the mouths of the Albanians. Broad, democratic public opinion not only in other countries but also within Yugoslavia finds it incomprehensible that an entire people can be called separatist and counterrevolutionary when they seek to preserve the constitutional law that is in force, a law that enshrines the principles of federalism proclaimed at the time of the National Liberation War.

The amendments to the Serbian Constitution relating to Kosovo are a step backward and constitute a retrograde process, a change which cannot fail to bring significant consequences for the entire Yugoslav federation.

The use of violence and terror is not the most appropriate way to solve problems; still less can the Kosovo crisis be overcome by trampling on the will of an Albanian population of 2 million.

The Albanians of Kosovo have won the support of international public opinion, not only through their determination in defending their just cause, but through their great moderation and maturity throughout the various phases of their political confrontation with chauvinist forces. Similarly, the voices of those within Yugoslavia who have followed the course of events in Kosovo with concern and who do not agree with greater Serbian policy cannot fail to have made their mark.

Health Cooperation Agreement Signed in Ankara

AU0804134989 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] An agreement on cooperation in the field of health between the Governments of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Republic of Turkey was signed in Ankara on 6 April. The agreement was signed on the Albanian side by Minister of Health Ahmet Kamberi, and on the Turkish side by Minister of Health Halil Sivgin.

The agreement provides for the exchange of information in the fields of health organization and medical care, epidemiology, the qualification of medical staff, and exchanges of experience, specialists, and scientists between the two countries, mutual participation in scientific activities, and so forth.

During his stay in Turkey, Minister Ahmet Kamberi paid homage and laid a wreath at the Mustafa Kemal Mausoleum, visited the main medical center in the district of (Etimesut), two major hospitals in Ankara, the surgical center and the pharmaceutical serum factory in Istanbul, and so forth.

Laotian Delegation Departs 9 April

AU0904190189 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] The delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos led by Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy minister of foreign affairs, left our country today.

The delegation was seen off at Rinas Airport by Sokrat Plaka, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other comrades.

During its stay in our country, the Laotian delegation paid homage and laid wreaths on the graves of the martyrs of the nation and the grave of Comrade Enver Hoxha, as well as visiting various institutions and production centers in the districts of Tirana, Fier, Berat, and Kruje.

Daily Criticizes Supply Deficiencies

AU1004171689 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 4 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial: "No Concessions or Excuses in Supplying the People"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There are major problems in supplying the people, and party organizations and their forums in the districts must tackle them practically and seriously. The situation and its opportunities must be realistically recognized and maximally exploited by tightening up demands for accountability on the part of managers at the base and in the people's council executive committees in the districts. Increasing production has been and remains the basis for improving supplies to the people in the towns and the countryside. The guidelines and ways to achieve this are clear, but not everywhere have they been followed to a sufficient extent. The Third Albanian Workers Party Central Committee Plenum set the task that every district should meet its own needs for agricultural and animal products. Pledges were made in this connection; letters, articles, and reports were written; and there were television programs, all of which was good. But what happened to all these promises in districts where there are deficiencies? Will it all start from the beginning again, with explanations and excuses? No.

The time has come for an end to excuses, for energetic, determined, realistic, and imaginative labor to take their place, and for us to stop repeating things over and over. This is still not properly understood. In Skrapar District, the 3-month egg delivery plan was less that 50 percent fulfilled, and in Librazhd and Skrapar Districts less than 80 percent [as published]. In Tepelene District, the vegetable delivery plan was only 52 percent fulfilled, and so on. Among some cadres and specialists in the districts there is a tendency to make excuses and to complain that "We do not have the right conditions," or "We have no material resources," etc. However, how did other districts, which dealt with these problems better, surmount such difficulties? Has every opportunity to increase production been used? What about those people who are expanding the cooperativist retail network in order to absorb the entire surplus of members of the cooperatives? The role of the retail sector must not be conceived one-sidedly and merely as a sales organization, by underestimating its complementary role as a purchasing organization, as often happens in some districts. Gathering the surplus from the cooperativists' personal plots is a reserve that must be exploited. Expanding the state and cooperativist retail networks in the countryside helps supply the people as a whole and is a tangible form of assistance for the cooperativist. [passage omitted]

Economic Progress Report for 2-8 Apr 89

AU0804153889

[Editorial Report] Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian in its broadcasts 2-8 April carries the following economic performance reports (date and time of report given in parentheses):

Berat District: Thirty-one out of 35 enterprises engaged in industrial activity report having fulfilled or overfulfilled the quarterly plan. (1330 GMT 8 Apr 89)
Elbasan District: The overall industrial production plan for the first quarter was exceeded by 2 million leks. (1800 GMT 2 Apr 89) The industrial plan up to 5 April was fulfilled by 100.2 percent. (1800 GMT 6 Apr 89)
Gjirokaster District: The industrial production plan for the first quarter was fulfilled 100.7 percent. (1800 GMT 7 Apr 89)
Kolonje District: The export plan for the first quarter has been overfulfilled. (1800 GMT 3 Apr 89)
Lushnje District: The quarterly industrial production plan has been exceeded by 3.5 percent. (1800 GMT 4 Apr 89)
Mat District: The quarterly industrial production plan was fulfilled 100.1 percent. (1800 GMT 6 Apr 89)
Tepelene District: Twelve out of 13 collectives have reported fulfilment or overfulfillment of their respective plans. (1800 GMT 4 Apr 89)
Tropoje District: The quarterly industrial production plan was fulfilled 104 percent. (1800 GMT 7 Apr 89)

Atanasov Holds Talks With Ukrainian Premier

AU1004192389 Sofia BTA English
1805 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Sofia, April 10 (BTA)—Mr Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, and Mr Vitaliy Masol, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, who arrived on a five-day visit here today, started their talks on questions of the bilateral cooperation and its prospects.

It was stressed that the political, economic and cultural relations between Bulgaria and the Ukraine are an indivisible part of the Bulgaro-Soviet relations and an important link in the growing process of allround cooperation and getting closer between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union in the condition of the restructuring underway. The Ukraine takes important place in the trade-economic and techno-scientific cooperation between Bulgaria and the USSR.

Mr Georgi Atanasov and Mr Vitaliy Masol noted with satisfaction that the new forms of cooperation as the direct ties between producers are entering the Bulgaro-Ukrainian economic cooperation ever widely. [sentence as received]

Bulgarian and Ukrainian economic organizations have signed over 70 contracts for establishment of direct relations, a number of joint enterprises have been established, as well as laboratories and scientific-production associations.

The intergovernmental agreement for development of the economic and techno-scientific cooperation, of the cultural and sport relations between Bulgaria and the Ukraine, signed in 1988, created the necessary contract-legal preconditions for broadening of the bilateral relations.

The leaders of the governments of Bulgaria and the Ukraine discussed a draft of a document envisaging development of the economic and techno-scientific cooperation for the 1989-1995 period and up to the year 2000, worked out on the basis of the existing rich experience of interaction and cooperation. It takes into account the objective processes of the restructuring of the economies of the two sides and outlines the opportunities for deepening of the direct contacts, for acceleration of the processes of structural changes and cooperation.

Positive assessment was given to the development of the relations and cooperation in the intellectual sphere which have a long standing history and are constantly broadening. Ever more active and close are the contacts between departments, institutes, creative unions and organizations. As an event of importance the sides pointed out the forthcoming celebration in Kiev of the day of Slavonic letters and culture.

A long term programme has been coordinated between the Academies of Sciences of Bulgaria and the Ukraine which includes over 140 problems on the chief priority trends of the CMEA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] comprehensive program for techno-scientific progress.

The direct cooperation between Bulgarian and Ukrainian higher schools is also deepening and giving good results.

Gives Dinner

AU1004200389 Sofia Domestic Service
in Bulgarian 1930 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, gave an official dinner at the Lozenets Residence in Sofia in honor of Vitaliy Masol, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine.

The dinner, which proceeded in a comradely and cordial atmosphere, was attended by Grigor Stoichkov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, by several ministers, and by the officials attending the bilateral talks.

The two government leaders proposed toasts for increasingly close cooperation in the joint efforts to renew our socialist society.

Belorussian Premier Kovalev Interviewed

AU1004144589 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 8 Apr 89 p 6

[Interview with Mikhail Kovalev, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR, by RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent on 7 April in Sofia]

[Text] The numerous meetings and talks which took place during the 5-day visit to Bulgaria of the chairman of the Belorussian Council of Ministers in Bulgaria and the documents that were adopted outlined the strategic directions and specific tasks related to further strengthening our cooperation. Despite the Soviet guest's strenuous program toward the end of his visit, he found time to answer questions posed by a RABOTNICHESKO DELO special correspondent.

[Correspondent] Mikhail Vasilyevich, your visit to Bulgaria gave a new and significant impulse to expanding comprehensive relations between our countries and Soviet Belorussia. In this context, would you please outline the priority directions, prompted by the need to elevate our cooperation to a new level?

[Kovalev] The agreement on developing economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] and Bulgaria envisages first the production and application of computer equipment, ensuring a higher level of machine building, applying progressive technologies in the chemical industry and microbiology, and initiating the production of new materials.

Special importance was attributed to developing cooperation in agricultural production, the processing industry, producing consumer goods, and in implementing the programs of apartment construction.

It was envisaged to qualitatively renew our cooperation: the broad introduction of such efficient forms as scientific-technical production-sharing within the framework of direct relations, and creating joint enterprises and trusts. We shall also intensify the expansion of mutually beneficial trade exchange between various organizations.

[Correspondent] Our public follows restructuring in the USSR with great interest. What characterizes restructuring in the Belorussian SSR?

[Kovalev] The scope of the questions posed by our party and the new approach toward their solution evoke an unprecedented interest and intellectual upsurge in the Soviet people, including the Belorussian people. The rights of the union republics and the separate regions have been significantly expanded. The Belorussian SSR is one of the first union republics that beginning in 1990, will be totally based on self-management and self-financing.

As before, we direct the labor collectives of the enterprises, trusts, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes toward increasing the independence of their activity, higher responsibility for the final results, and higher labor discipline; in other words, toward precisely implementing the decisions of the party and the government related to restructuring.

[Correspondent] What measures have you taken to accelerate restructuring?

[Kovalev] The transition toward fundamentally new methods of managing and restructuring the political system is a revolutionary process, aimed at eliminating the established stereotypes of thinking. It requires completely different approaches toward solving the great tasks. Naturally, people would like to see the results of restructuring sooner; however, this is not a short-term process—it requires constant and purposeful work on the part of all if the results are to become tangible. The experience of our Bulgarian friends, which we studied during our visit to your beautiful country, will facilitate the acceleration of this process. I would like to especially stress my deep impressions of my meeting with Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee.

Railway Cooperation Agreement Signed in Moscow

AU0804150089 Sofia BTA in English 1401 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Moscow, April 8 (BTA)—Mr Nikolay Konarev, minister of railways of the USSR, and Mr Trifon Pashov, minister of transport of Bulgaria, held talks in Moscow from April 3 through 7. The ministers signed a protocol on the further promotion of cooperation between railwaymen in the two countries. There are plans to start three more train services between Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Sofia and Varna and to open a direct rail link between Moscow and Plovdiv in the summer of 1990.

More than 50,000 passengers in excess of the 1987 level were carried by rail between the USSR and Bulgaria last year.

Soviet Troops, Arms Reductions Praised

AU1104090789 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 9 Apr 89 p 5

[Editorial article: "Moving Closer to Each Other, Instead of Braking Maneuvers"]

[Text] In his speech at the London Guildhall, Mikhail Gorbachev, the first Soviet leader, countered the formula of "nuclear deterrence," which British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher considers "miraculous," with a proposal to actually deter nuclear weapons themselves.

Naturally, even the most brilliantly defined goal can remain only wishful thinking if it does not result in specific actions. The high-ranking Soviet guest to the British capital once more confirmed that the diplomacy of the USSR, the first country where socialism was victorious, is a diplomacy of peace and personal example. The Soviet Union, as well as its Warsaw Pact allies, have already announced one-sided reductions of their armed forces and conventional arms, while Mikhail Gorbachev, in his London Guildhall speech, announced a new step toward a complete end to the production of fissionable material as a specific measure for a reduction of and a total halt to the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The first industrial reactor for the production of weapons-grade plutonium was closed down in 1987, and the Soviet Union will cease the production of highly enriched uranium this year. Two more reactors for the production of plutonium will be closed down in 1989 and 1990. The Soviet Union has decided not to replace them with new capacities for the production of nuclear weapons. This means that the already announced reductions in armed forces and conventional weapons in the Soviet Union are being complemented in practice by a restriction of nuclear arms production. This is a very important practical step toward a real and universal, humanitarian goal: the elimination of nuclear arms from our planet.

The Soviet-American INF Treaty, as well as the present 50-percent reductions of strategic strike arms on both sides are subjected to this goal, as is known. There is no doubt that if the United States and NATO adopt similar measures to reduce the production of fissionable material, this would result in an absolute reduction of new nuclear weapons produced all over the world.

As has already been announced, the Soviet Union will enter the last decade of this century by having unilaterally reduced 500,000 soldiers—12 percent of its total number of Armed Forces—reducing its military budget by 14 percent and its arms production by nearly 20 percent. It is fortunate that these specific measures for the reduction of the Soviet military potential evoke a positive reaction abroad, but it would be even better if they were to result in reciprocal actions on the other side. In addition to this, the Soviet Union proposes that the question of naval forces also be raised at the negotiating tables between the United States and the USSR, as well as between the two military-political blocs. This is how the cycle of arms negotiations could be closed by encompassing all types of armaments—nuclear, conventional, air force, and naval. This is how each of the two sides will provide full guarantees that the other side will not and cannot rely on one-sided advantages concerning any type of armaments whatsoever.

Unfortunately, instead of "moving closer to each other," the other side, for the time being at least, is "braking maneuvers," which are expressed either by efforts to interpret the balance of armed forces of the two blocs arbitrarily, or by a refusal to include certain types of weapons in the negotiations, or by preparing for the "modernization" of tactical nuclear weapons. Considered separately and in their entirety, such actions can only depreciate the great progress marked in East-West relations by the signing of the Soviet-American INF Treaty and by the continuation of the European process.

The European spring offensive, started by Soviet diplomacy from the geographical area of the warm Gulf stream, will soon extend to two other important West European states—France and the FRG. It is high time for Europe to demonstrate that weapons are not and cannot be the appropriate construction material for the common European home.

Turkey's Attitude Toward Vienna Talks Viewed

AU1004181389 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 7 Apr 89 p 3

[Lyubomir Gabrovski's article: "Does Ankara Like the Vienna Waltz?"]

[Excerpts] The beginning of the parallel talks on reducing conventional weapons and armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals and on measures on strengthening confidence and security in Europe is indicative of the striving of the Warsaw Pact and NATO to expand the sphere of agreement and to construct bridges between their positions until a consensus is reached. The road will be neither easy nor short; however, the goal justifies all efforts. Are all participants ready to make the necessary efforts?

The problems of Turkey, a country which has the second largest army in NATO in terms of numbers, represent a serious challenge at the Vienna talks. Turkey is afraid that it will be isolated by the present position of the allies at the talks. It thinks that NATO's proposal to create a main central European zone (without Turkey, Greece, Norway, and Iceland), which is being discussed, will isolate it at the talks and will hurt its security interests. [passage omitted]

The serious problems in the area of defense range from the modernization of the tactical nuclear weapons to the reduction of conventional weapons. Undoubtedly, the Turkish politicians and military strategists will encounter serious difficulties while adopting relevant decisions and in determining the most correct approaches toward solving the issues.

The NATO members differ in their opinions. The basic theme of this Atlantic discord is well known: the influence of Mikhail Gorbachev's disarming foreign policy over West European public opinion. More and more people in the West believe that the military threat on the part of the Warsaw Pact Armed Forces, which are "superior to NATO," is disappearing in the new era of relations between East and West. Turkey followed the position of its senior European allies and assumed a wait-and-see position. [passage omitted]

Turkey's position is very delicate because of the fact that it has an extensive border with the USSR and Bulgaria. Some strategists think that in the future, Turkey must also rely on its conventional weapons rather than on the vague requirements of the "flexible defense." It is their opinion that Turkey must continue to modernize its conventional weapons, which have become obsolete, and in this context, to request additional financial and military assistance from the United States and NATO. However, will this assistance not be linked to a commitment related to nuclear modernization?

Of course, the issue of the Turkish Army is crucial in adopting any important decision. However, it must be pointed out that different opinions exist in the various Turkish ministries and institutions engaged in setting the country's policy. "There is a limit below which Turkey will not go in reducing its conventional weapons," Vuralhan, the Turkish minister of national defense, said at a press conference, referring to the long border with Warsaw Pact countries and its proximity to the Middle East. This premise was confirmed by Turkish Premier Ozal at the 1988 UN General Assembly special session on disarmament. "Turkey attributes a great importance to disarmament; however, it must also take into consideration its geopolitical situation, which jeopardizes its territorial integrity." According to the former chief of the

Pentagon, Carlucci, between 1976 and 1986 the number of troops in the Turkish Armed Forces has increased from 614,500 to 860,200 because of this "threat." This increase fully covers NATO's deficit, created during the 1976-86 period because of the reduction of the UK troops. The same report points out that during the aforementioned period, Turkey's military expenditures have increased by 153 percent. [passage omitted]

The coordination of the mandate of the forum on reducing conventional weapons and armed forces in Europe continued for 11 months, and took 100 meetings. However, the great goal merits great efforts. The opportunity to create a new Europe, free of the burden of weapons, must not be missed. Ankara must make its choice.

Official Talks With EEC Conclude in Brussels

AU0704191489 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The first round of official talks for the signing of an agreement on trade and trade-economic cooperation between Bulgaria and the EEC ended in Brussels today.

The delegates discussed the manner in which the negotiations will continue and mapped out the areas to which these negotiations should extend.

These contacts will not only be limited to trade relations, but to the expansion of bilateral cooperation in a number of additional spheres, such as industry, agriculture, power supply, transportation, tourism, statistics, environmental protection, and the training of cadres for managerial activities in our country.

The role of a future joint commission between Bulgaria and the EEC was discussed. This commission should follow the progress of intensifying bilateral cooperation and will deal with controversial problems as far as they may emerge.

Ovcharov Travels to Hannover for Business Forum

Interviewed on Reforms

AU0704165089 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 6 Apr 89 p 42

[Interview with Bulgarian Minister of Planning and Economy Stoyan Ovcharov by Hans-Herbert Holzamer: "The Once Successful Factors Have Been Used Up"; place, date not given]

[Text] SZ: Mr Ovcharov, what is the purpose of your visit to the FRG?

Ovcharov: My upcoming visit—I will be accompanied by a delegation of about 120 Bulgarian businessmen and directors of companies from all spheres—is linked with the "People's Republic of Bulgaria-FRG Business Forum" to be held on 9 April at the Hannover Fair. The forum's aim is to provide fresh impulses for the development of the traditionally good bilateral economic relations.

As is known, Bulgaria has launched a radical economic reform. One of its goals is to open up our economy to world trade. The basic element of this reform is the transition to the establishment of firms within the economy that will be given the required independence and freedom to carry out business in domestic and foreign markets.

Such companies have recently been founded in Bulgaria, and we hope that they will soon establish business contacts with the old and prospective partners in the FRG, our main business partner in the West. The dynamics of the present-day world does not allow a vacumm in contacts, and we take this into consideration.

We accord great significance to personal contacts that exist between the managers of Bulgarian firms and their German counterparts. We intend to brief the representatives of the FRG economy on the new preconditions for economic cooperation with Bulgaria that have resulted from the economic reforms. Specific explanations are required because the changes are so significant and the conditions for investments are so favorable.

SZ: If you compare Bulgaria's participation in the Hannover Fair this year with that of 1986, when Bulgaria was a partner country, what has changed?

Ovcharov: This is our first official participation since 1986, when Bulgaria participated in the fair as a partner country. Today we exhibit a great many more products in the sphere of electronics, chemistry, biotechnology, and machine construction in Hannover. What we have achieved in these areas is the result of our efforts during the past 2 to 3 years and an attempt to catch up with world standards.

Our contribution to the exhibition also shows the possible directions and the new prospects for economic cooperation between Bulgaria and the FRG. We want to open up our economy to the world economy to a greater extent and use the possibilities of the international division of labor.

This is only one aspect. What is new about our participation is the attitude that is now being adopted by the Bulgarian economic representatives. The organization of the companies gives them complete freedom in signing contracts. They can determine the form and the way in which they maintain contacts with Western companies. All bureaucratic restrictions have been removed, both for direct contacts between Bulgarian enterprises and international markets and for the activities of foreign companies in Bulgaria. The possibilities for establishing joint ventures have largely been liberalized. Of course, this represents a considerable change concerning Bulgaria's participation in the Hannover Fair.

SZ: Does Decree No 56 mean that Bulgaria is following Gorbachev's reform course?

Ovcharov: We have repeatedly stressed, and I would like to repeat it again at this point, that everything in connection with the strategy of restructuring in Bulgaria is ideologically and practically linked with the changes in the Soviet Union initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev. Restructuring in the USSR and restructuring in Bulgaria have the same origin and the same goals.

Of course, every country is stressing specific aspects within the framework of these uniform characteristics. Both in Bulgaria and the USSR, uniformity and the monopoly of state ownership are being abolished, the economic initiatives of the manufacturers of goods are being promoted, and the development of mechanisms of the market economy and the removal of bureaucratic deformations are being enhanced. We are trying to reorganize and renew socialism, to introduce stable and viable standards both in the economy and in the entire social life.

What happens is that bureaucratic barriers are removed and that broad possibilities are created for companies and individual persons to pursue their economic interests. In Bulgaria, not only the state but individuals, collectives, municipalities, and social organizations as well will be allowed to establish enterprises in the future. The new Bulgarian economic system envisages a strong upswing of the system of joint stock companies, and of cooperative, joint, state, and private forms of ownership.

In this sense, we also view the transition toward the establishment of companies as an important and essential step within the process of restructuring socialism. The process of democratizing economic relations is the basis and precondition for democratizing society.

SZ: You support the introduction of employee stock; you want to establish a relationship between the achievement of individuals and the receipt of dividends. Does this not sound very capitalist?

Ovcharov: These are indeed new terms in the Bulgarian economy. However, they are the result of the development of civilization, and it would be wrong to link them only with a capitalist system. It is not the terms that are important, but the application of the mechanisms; in our view, this is the most important aspect.

SZ: You are calling for new motivation on the part of the workers and for the elimination of the alienation of the working people from the means of production. Is this not an exact description of the malaise of the socialist economic system?

Ovcharov: Yes, we are in the process of carrying out radical economic reforms. This does not mean, however, that we are abandoning socialism; we are renewing and enriching socialism.

The socialist system was introduced in countries with weak economies: A great amount of difficulties and mistakes had to be overcome. At a certain point, factors that led to success for decades and that helped Bulgaria to develop from a poor to a developed industrial state, were used up Today, at a time when the scientific-technological revolution is taking place and when socialism is being restructured in the world, we see many fundamental questions from a new viewpoint.

SZ: Will the economic reforms be followed by social and political ones?

Ovcharov: Renewal is not limited to the economic sphere; it is also taking place in our country's intellectual life and the political field.

Meets With FRG Officials

AU0804182189 Sofia BTA in English
1728 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Hannover, April 8 (BTA correspondent)—Business executives of Bulgaria and of the Federal Republic of Germany opened a business forum here today to explore fresh opportunities for more vigorous direct contacts between companies in the two countries.

Representatives of some 140 Bulgarian economic organisations arrived here for the meeting, which is attended by over 100 West German businessmen representing Siemens AG, Thyssen AG, Fried. Krupp GmbH, AEG, Mannesmann, Salzgitter AG and other leading companies.

Influential financial institutions such as the Deutsche Bank AG, the Dresdner Bank AG, the Norddeutsche Landesbank and the Sueddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, have also sent their representatives to the forum.

The new business arrangements in Bulgaria enforced by State Council Decree No 56 on Economic Activity were also discussed with high-ranking officials of the FRG Ministries of Economics and of Research and Technology, and of authoritative trade and industrial associations such as the Bundesverband des Deutschen Gross- und Aussenhandels EV, the Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbau EV (VDMA), and the Verband der Chemischen Industrie EV.

The business forum is an accompanying event to the Bulgarian participation at the Hannover Industrial Fair.

Irioncar, one of the oldest joint partnerships formed by the Bulgarian Balkancar Company and by the West German Daimler-Benz AG, already signed its first contract. After Bulgaria's Khimkomplekt signed a contract on updating the Devnya Chemical Works with Lurgi GmbH, one of the world's largest chemical industry manufacturers, Lurgi's regional director for Eastern Europe said: "The contract comes as further evidence of the good contacts with Bulgarian economic organisations and as a basis for the intensification of these contacts. I can see fine prospects opening up to Bulgaro-West German cooperation."

Mr Stoyan Ovcharov, minister of planning and economy, who heads the Bulgarian delegation to the forum, conferred today with Dr Ernst Albrecht, minister-president of the West German state of Lower Saxony. They considered the state of business contacts between Bulgaria and that state. An emphasis was laid on the need to intensify direct contacts between companies in the two countries, to set up joint ventures and to encourage reciprocal investment.

Mr Stoyan Ovcharov also met with Mr Ludolf von Wartenberg, parliamentary secretary of state at the FRG Ministry of Economics.

Forum Ends

AU0904184089 Sofia BTA in English
1759 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Hannover, April 9 (BTA correspondent)—What relates companies like Siemens AG, Thyssen AG, Fried, Krupp GmbH, AEG, Mannesmann, Salzgitter AG, Volkswagen, Daimler-Benz and more than hundred other companies and banks from the FRG who have sent their representatives to the first meeting which has ended here "Business-Forum" with Bulgarian businessmen, is the interest in the restructuring underway in Bulgaria and the economic reform accompanying it.

Dr. Ernst Albrecht, minister president of the West German state of Lower Saxony, and Mr. Stoyan Ovcharov, minister of economy and planning of Bulgaria, heading the Bulgarian delegation were unanimous in their assessment that similar initiatives enter into the new political realities in Europe and in the world and are part of the new forms of economic cooperation.

Dr. Albrecht proposed that as early as this year Bulgarian leading economic figures can undertake a course in managing, and Bulgarian studentscould study in higher schools in Hannover.

Before the BTA correspondent Lower Saxony's prime minister said that a number of the companies in the FRG till the present had not been well acquainted with the new economic conditions in Bulgaria and that now the interest in cooperation with Bulgarian companies is increased.

I am deeply convinced that during the next years we will deepen our economic ties, and thus the direct contacts between the people of the two countries as well. I think that in a broader context this initiative is a contribution of Bulgaria and the FRG for the development of the East-West relations, for the construction of a peaceful common European house, said Dr. Albrecht.

The meeting showed the great interest of our partners from the FRG in all aspects of the restructuring in Bulgaria. A number of contacts were realized between our new companies and their partners and what is more not only in the traditional fields of cooperation.

Special attention deserve the relations with Lower Saxony, as well as the more closer cooperation between the state and the Plovdiv region in Bulgaria. We are convinced that the opportunities opened by this representative meeting will soon bear concrete fruits, said Minister Stoyan Ovcharov.

Confers With State Leader

AU1104092389 Sofia BTA in English
1825 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Stuttgart, April 10 (BTA corr.)—The leader of the Bulgarian delegation for the first "Business Forum" between Bulgaria and the F.R.G. Mr Stoyan Ovcharov, minister of economy and planning, had a meeting with Mr Lothar Spaeth, prime minister of the Baden-Wuerttemberg state. They reviewed the state of the economic relations between the two sides and the prospects for their development paying special attention to the opportunities for broadening of the cooperation.

In Baden-Wuerttemberg are situated the plants of Daimler Benz. in Sindelfingen, where cars are produced, the Bulgarian delegation had business talks. Later meetings were held with representatives of the business circles of the state.

Visit by Hungary's Karoly Grosz Announced

AU0704155289 Sofia BTA in English
1454 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Sofia, April 7 (BTA)—At the invitation of Mr Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Central Committee [CC] of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the State Council, Mr Karoly Grosz, secretary general of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, will pay a friendly working visit to Bulgaria in the second half of April 1989.

CSSR-Bulgarian Tourism Commission Ends Talks

AU0704101989 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
6 Apr 89 p 7

[Unattributed report in the "24 Hours Abroad" column]

[Text] The Mixed Czechoslovak-Bulgarian Tourism Commission concluded its session in Sofia on Wednesday [5 April]. During the session, both sides stressed their endeavor to improve the quality of tourist services and also devoted attention to certain shortcomings repeatedly appearing in the services for Czechoslovak tourists arriving at the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. They also discussed issues connected with enterprise-sponsored recreation and considered the possibility of jointly building a tourist base in the People's Republic of Bulgaria for the needs of Czechoslovak citizens.

Danish Premier To Visit 'Second Half of April'

AU0804162789 Sofia BTA in English 1550 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Sofia, April 8 (BTA)—At the invitation of Mr Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, Mr Poul Schluter, prime minister of Denmark, will pay an official visit to this country in the second half of April.

Session Held With Mozambique on Economic Issues

AU0504113889 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 4 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] The Bulgarian-Mozambican Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation began a plenary session in Sofia yesterday [3 April]

The cochairmen of the commission—Grigor Stoichkov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Joao Kachamila, minister of mineral resources of Mozambique—expressed their two countries' desire to develop mutually beneficial economic links, making use of the latest forms of cooperation.

The session is continuing in the form of working groups, which are discussing the possibilities for setting up joint enterprises for the exploitation of minerals, in agriculture, and in light industry. A plant for the production of working overalls, supplied with Bulgarian equipment, is already in operation in Mozambique.

Goncalves Rafael Sengo, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mozambique to Bulgaria, is taking part in the session.

Atanasov Receives Kachamila

AU0704200589 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1930 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Joao Kachamila, minister of mineral resources of Mozambique and chairman of the Mozambique side of the Joint Bulgarian-Mozambique Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

It was stated during the talks that the economic reforms in our country are creating favorable conditions for intensifying relations between the two countries by establishing joint enterprises for the exploitation and production of graphite and marble, in the agricultural sector, and in the area of light industry.

Protocol Signed

AU0804135089 Sofia BTA in English 1227 GMT 8 Apr 89

["Bulgaria, Mozambique: Cooperation in Mutual Benefit"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 8 (BTA)—The co-chairmen of the mixed Bulgaro-Mozambican commission for economic and techno-scientific cooperation, Mr Grigor Stoichkov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, and Mr Joao Kachamila, minister of mineral resources of Mozambique, yesterday signed a protocol on the seventh session which the commission completed here.

The document outlines the areas of shared interest in which the two countries will promote their economic ties: mineral resources, the light industry, agriculture and finance.

Dzhurov Attends Space Flight Anniversary Meeting

AU1004192989 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The 10th anniversary of the first Bulgarian-Soviet space flight was festively celebrated in Sofia tonight.

Academician Mako Dakov, chairman of the National Committee for Space Research and Utilization, pointed out the importance of the flight carried out by cosmonauts Georgi Ivanov and Nikolay Rukavishnikov for the development of Bulgarian space science. [passage omitted]

The meeting, which was chaired by Nencho Stanev, first deputy chairman of the All-National Committee for Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship, was attended by Comrade Dobri Dzhurov; by Velko Palin, head of the Bulgarian Communist Central Committee Social and National Security Policy Department; by representatives of the USSR Embassy in Sofia, by generals and officers of the Bulgarian People's Army, and by numerous citizens.

Council of Ministers Assesses Trade Shortcomings

AU0704182089 Sofia BTA in English 1755 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Sofia, April 7 (BTA)—In the first three months of 1989, the amount of consumer goods on the home market increased 12 per cent from the like period last year, says an announcement on today's meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Along with that, the announcement says, some negative phenomena have made themselves felt. Although they receive the respective resources, a number of economic organizations refuse to contract and to produce goods for the home market. Individual economic executives and citizens grossly violate the established rules for the sale of commodities. There have been increasingly frequent cases of indiscriminate export, of demanding pay in foreign currency for deliveries to Bulgarian enterprises, of buying goods from the shops for speculative re-sale.

Today the Council of Ministers considered and adopted a decree intended to deter such phenomena in production and trade.

The managements of the companies and of the other commodity producing organizations, the distributors and the local authorities have been assigned to apply a system of contracts and to enforce strictly economic incentives and sanctions so as to create conditions for the better availability of consumer goods and services and to prevent the negative phenomena.

Economic organizations failing to secure the production of goods for the home market by their plans and contracts will be liable to economic restrictions and sanctions.

Governmental Decree on Consumer Goods Reviewed

AU1004180889 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 8 Apr 89 pp 1,6

[BTA report: "Defending Consumers"]

[Text] Supplying the population with consumer goods and services is a basic obligation of the economic and trade organizations and the oblast and municipal people's councils. The 1989 uniform state plan on scientific-technical and socioeconomic development, as well as additional measures which were adopted later, created favorable conditions for increasing the production of goods and the expansion of services. During the first 3 months of the year, the quantity of consumer goods for the population increased almost 12 percent in comparison with the same period in 1988.

Simultaneously, certain negative phenomena emerged. Regardless of the fact that they receive resources, many economic organizations refuse to contract and produce consumer goods, while certain economic leaders and citizens crudely violate the established rules of selling goods. There have been frequent cases of uncontrolled export, demands from our enterprises to pay in foreign currency for production that has been supplied to them, and purchases of goods from stores which are only to be resold later for the purpose of speculation.

The decree adopted by the Council of Ministers aims to prevent such phenomena in production and trade.

The leaderships of the companies and other organizations that produce goods, as well as executive committees of the people's councils, have been required to use the contract system and strictly apply economic incentives and sanctions in order to ensure conditions which provide more goods and services for the population and prevent negative phenomena.

Economic restrictions and sanctions will be applied in cases in which the economic organizations do not use their plans and contracts for the production of goods for the domestic market. The export of goods beyond the quantity envisaged by the plan can only be allowed by organizations which have fulfilled or are rhythmically fulfilling their tasks in accordance with the tasks and quotas of the state plan and their obligations to the commodity fund and the consumer-enterprises. Attention has been drawn to the fact that efforts must be directed toward exporting goods, which the relevant organizations are producing in sufficient quantities, and not toward trade with resources that are envisaged to meet the needs of the national economy.

The Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the appropriate organizations, entrusted with drawing up the balances, must strictly ensure that the exchange and barter operations are conducted only with goods which the relevant organizations have at their disposal as producers, and must ensure, through the exchange, the supply of similar goods to diversify the assortment. The organs charged with supervising the quotas of goods for export are responsible for disturbances that may emerge in the domestic market.

When the companies and other organizations that produce goods do not observe the requirements that were pointed out, the means acquired from selling these goods in leva or in foreign currency will be confiscated in favor of the national budget, and the relevant organizations must pay a penalty which is five times higher than the value of the goods sold.

The executive committees of the people's councils and the state and public control organs have been required to intensify the struggle to eliminate violations of the citizens' interests.

The question of criminal liability will arise in cases when the state organs and banks note an inconsiderate or careless implementation of the obligations related to state commissions and economic contracts which causes significant damage to the organizations or the national economy. Such liability will be applied to persons who sell goods without having a document that proves that they have produced the goods or that they have the right to carry out trade activity.

The executive committees of the people's councils and the organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs have been requested to intensify the measures related to unmasking similar crimes and to inform the Chief Prosecutor's Office so that responsibility can be sought. Administrative measures envisaged by the law will also be applied.

It was suggested that the National Council of the Fatherland Front, the consumer councils, and the other public organizations intensify their control in defending the interests of the consumers, and use the mass media to report on the violations publicly and to censure the violators.

Figures, Reports on New Company Registrations

AU0704162989 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 6 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[Report prepared by ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME Information Department: "Search for... Field for Self-Realization"]

[Text] A 40-day period has elapsed since the registration of the first companies in Bulgaria—a busy time for the specialist departments responsible for checking the documents and registering the new economic units, although the forecasts of line-ups proved unfounded.

The Ministry of Planning and Economy reports that up to 28 March, 735 citizens' companies [as published] were registered, of which 46 are state companies, 3 fall within the category of cooperative, municipal, associated, and social organizations' companies, and 677 are citizen's companies, including 566 one-person companies.

Is the company boom a fact or an illusion? Does this "boom" in citizen's companies indicate a sharp revival of the economy, and will it quickly lead to a saturation of the market? This was the first question that we tried to find out through our correspondents.

Stara Zagora correspondent Marin Linkov reports: "My impression is that most of the companies are engaged in the production of plastic, metal, and rubber products and in trading in these products. These are in fact previous home workers, who are coming out from under the wing of various enterprises."

Burgas, Konstantin Penev: "Most of the citizen's companies are engaged in trade and services. Only about one-quarter are production companies."

Ruse, Rositsa Georgieva: "So far, not a single citizen's company exists in the production field. Their fields of activity are predominantly transportation, repair work, and so on."

Turgovishte, Veneta Pisareva, chairman of Turgovishte District Court: "Of the 13 companies registered so far, 11 are citizen's companies, most of which were operating independently previously."

Indeed, not all the reports are satisfactory. For example, Yordan Karavachev reports from Plovdiv that four agricultural brigades from the "Georgi Dimitrov" agro-industrial complex tried to register themselves as companies, but were refused, because the complex is an economic trust, that is, a state organization, in which case the decision on forming a company must be taken by the Council of Ministers.

The map of services contains so many empty spaces that anyone is welcome in this field. However, realism demands that we recognize that a large number of the new companies in fact existed previously in one form or another, so that it is too early yet to speak of results.

The second finding that deserves attention is that an "outflow" of manpower from the state enterprises over to the citizens' companies will start in the near future.

Blagoevgrad, Georgi Savekliev: "A large number of proprietors are thinking of leaving the enterprises where they work when their business settles down. Some have already done so."

Kyustendil, Ivan Nedev, chairman of the companies department of the district court: "We have registered a number of taxi companies belonging to people who previously used their own private cars as taxis within the framework of "Kooptaksi" or other similar organizations. Now they want to devote all their time to this work, instead of working only 2-3 hours extra per day. One of the proprietors even told me that he is leaving his previous job."

Pleven, Zakharina Lalova: "We also have two taxi companies belonging to former members of "Kooptaksi."

Lovech, Iliya Monov: "Most of the proprietors of companies claim, at least for the moment, that they will work in their spare time, with the help of their relatives and friends, some of whom are pensioners."

A national list of names [imennik] is needed. This is proven by practical experience. For example, the "Mladost" company was registered in Sofia on 15 March by the economic trust of the same name, while at the same time in Mikhaylovgrad, a company of the same name was registered dealing in... wire fencing, metal chains, and canvas gloves. This is not the only coincidence: There is a "Garant" company in Kyustendil (for ironmongery), and an impressario company of the same name in Varna, although the regulations for the application of the decree specifically prohibit such duplication. The judges with whom we spoke told us that they have no data from other company registration departments at their disposal....

We received the following explanation from Yordan Kirchev, deputy director at the "Information Systems and Technologies" National Center: "We are now preparing a protection system for names, to prevent any duplications. This will be in the form of something like a "list of company names," in which the date and exact time of the declaration will be recorded, in order to preserve priority. However, the state companies need special protection, because some of them have names that are well known at home and abroad, and at the moment, nothing prevents anyone from forming a one-person company called "Mototekhnika" or "Rodopa."

A further point that is holding up the registration process is that Decree No 9 of 28 March increased the company registration fees—from 100 to 1,000 leva for companies that are legal persons, to 300 leva for collective citizens' companies, and to 200 leva for one-person citizens' companies and associations formed for noneconomic purposes. Why is this so?...

State and People's Control Committee Meets

AU0704180489 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 6 Apr 89 p 2

[Krasimir Tsigularov report: "Serious Investigation of Existing Opportunities"]

[Text] A serious investigation of the existing opportunities—this is how we can sum up the evaluations on the work of the State and People's Control Committee in 1988 that were expressed at the committee's expanded session held at the People's Palace of Culture in Sofia yesterday. However, figures can hardly represent the most correct criterion for such activities. Nevertheless, the sums of 103 million leva in determined and prevented losses, and approximately 170 million leva in revealed additional resources, as well as nearly 20,000 letters and tips which were received and dealt with by the committee, are certainly impressive figures. The most important thing, however, is the trend toward expansion of the social basis of control, toward mass propagation and democratization of control activities. A characteristic trend toward the most crucial and most topical problems of the country and toward the application of new methods, forms of work, and approaches to problems, which make it possible to deal with all issues on a comprehensive scale, should also be pointed out. The increasingly analytical approach to the control committee's work resulted in a better understanding of dynamic processes, of the reasons for and circumstances that cause numerous negative phenomena. This fact, in turn, makes it possible to achieve the main goal: to intensify the preventive functions of control activities so that the committee may not only be an institution in charge of determining existing phenomena.

A number of shortcomings, difficulties, and imperfections were pointed out in connection with the control system, and a trend toward dealing with unimportant subjects as well as certain shortcomings in analytical work were observed. This should be one of the main subjects of future work, because the control committee is facing new and even more important tasks connected with the total transformation of our country's social and economic life. A very important, new investigation of existing opportunities is expected from the control committee in the future.

Prosecutor's Office Releases 1988 Crime Figures

AU0704123389 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 5 Apr 89 p 2

[Violeta Simeonova article: "Implacability Toward Crime"]

[Text] A collegium meeting of the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the People's Republic of Bulgaria was held yesterday. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Supreme Court, and the Chief Investigation Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs also took part in the work of the session. In fulfillment of the tasks delineated in the letter of the Secretariat of the BCP Central Committee of 14 October 1988, the collegium considered a report on the work of the crime prevention organs on investigating, in a timely and thorough manner, the cases of murder, robbery, and theft of personal property that occurred in 1988.

Analysis of the figures reveals a rising trend in certain crimes: premeditated murders rose in number from 159 in 1987 to 210 in 1988; robberies, from 676 to 694; and house-breaking cases involving theft of personal property, from 9,007 to 12,092.

A total of 12,926 investigations were completed last year into cases of the categories listed above. Of these, 12.4 percent were made on the day of receipt of the information; 56.8 percent, within 15 days of receipt; 20.7 percent, within 30 days; and 10 percent, over a longer period. Nonetheless, there were very many instances of delays in making preliminary investigations, which reflected upon the results obtained. Special attention was paid to the question of preliminary investigations that were discontinued because of nondetection of the persons involved. The work of the organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on such cases is not satisfactory, and supervision by the public prosecutor is inadequate. It was pointed out that there was a need to complete the preliminary proceedings in a timely way and to eliminate the reasons of an objective and subjective nature that give rise to delays in certain investigations and inquiries. During the discussions, it was stressed that the preventative work on this class of cases was also unsatisfactory. The need was also pointed out for purposeful work on establishing and eliminating the causes and conditions that promote the commission of crimes.

In the conclusions made on the report, attention was also drawn to intensifying the joint work of the Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The collegium adopted decisions that mapped out measures for more effective and systematic supervision of the timely and thorough completion of preliminary checks, inquiries, and investigations on the part of the organs of the public prosecutor's office.

Troop Withdrawal From Cambodia Praised

AU0704185289 Sofia BTA in English 1803 GMT 7 Apr 89

["BTA Declaration"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 7 (BTA)—On April 5 this year, the Governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic came up with an important new political initiative aimed at the settlement of one of most complicated regional conflicts, the Kampuchean problem. The three countries issued a joint declaration announcing the decision on the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea by the end of September 1989.

The declaration lists the main points of the Kampuchean problem and the peace initiatives of the three Indochinese states on a political settlement of the conflict. It outlines measures for the implementation of the common understanding reached at the regional meetings in Jakarta and for the further promotion of the inter-Kampuchean dialogue.

It is indicated that the complete Vietnamese troop withdrawal and the related suspension of all foreign military aid and interference will put an end for the civil war and will urge the Kampuchean factions to settle the internal aspect of the Kampuchean problem on the basis of national reconciliation as early as in September 1989. For the purposes of monitoring and verification of compliance, it is suggested to renew the functions of the international commission set up under the terms of the 1954 Geneva agreements and comprising India, Canada and Poland, with the participation of the personal representative of the U.N. secretary general and of the president of the meeting in Jakarta.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria assesses the latest initiative of the three Indochinese countries as a balanced and realistic program for a just settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

The provisions of the declaration could serve as a sound foundation for a further expansion of the dialogue already under way, for progress on the settlement of the conflict and for the relaxation of tensions in that part of the world.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria entirely supports the proposals contained in the declaration, which are consistent with the true interests of the Kampuchean and of the other peoples in the region, and expresses the hope that this declaration will meet with a constructive and positive response from all parties concerned.

Financial Situation of Average Albanian Viewed

AU0704134489 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 5 Apr 89 p 3

[Correspondent Mariya Netsova report: "How Does the Average Albanian Balance His Budget?"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Albanian housewives explained to me that the main aim in distributing the national budget in Albania is to establish correct interrelations between the workers and the leading cadres and to eliminate imbalances between the country and the town, between the intelligentsia and the working masses. The present wage system, which has been adjusted and supplemented many times since 1947, brings the difference between the lowest and highest pay down to a ratio of 1:2.5, or a maximum of 1:3. The lowest wage is 600 leks (7 leks being equal to 1 lev), and taxes have been abolished. A worker can cover his monthly rent from 1-2 days' wages. The amounts spent on running water, lighting, and other services are extremely moderate, and even symbolic. Here I will add my own personal impressions: Tirana has no centralized heating and, because of the limit on electricity consumption, the people use mainly coal to heat their houses.

How does the statistically average family in Albania balance its monthly budget? Basic foods in the country are not expensive: a kilogram of pork costs between 16 and 20 leks; 1 kg of bread costs 2-5 leks; milk, 2 leks; and rice, 8 leks. (There are no standard prices for bread, milk, and sugar.) In the middle of winter, there were abundant amounts of fruit and vegetables on the store shelves—potatoes, carrots, leeks, spinach, and small anemic tomatoes were on sale, fresh and carefully washed. People say that there is no season in Albania when one cannot pick at least one kind of fruit or vegetable; even when the hills surrounding the capital are covered in snow, the harvest comes from the plains beside the Ionian Sea, where the average annual temperature is 17-18 degrees [centigrade], and below-zero temperatures are extremely rare. A further notable point is that all the goods on the market come from the country's cooperative and state enterprises, because the peasants, although they have their own smallholdings, produce only to meet their personal needs.

Leaders' Public Appearances 24-31 March

AU3103175889

[Editorial Report] Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian in its newcasts, the Sofia press, and Sofia BTA in English during the 24-31 March monitoring period report the following public appearances of Bulgarian leaders:

Petur Dyulgerov and Pencho Kubadinski attended a National Day reception given by the Greek ambassador in Sofia on 24 March. (Sofia Domestic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 89)

Petur Mladenov hosted a dinner in Sofia on 27 March for Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr Luis Barrios Tassano, which Andrey Lukanov attended. (BTA 1743 GMT 27 Mar 89) (Sofia Domestic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 89)

Todor Zhivkov, with Petur Mladenov in attendance, received in Sofia on 28 March Dr Luis Barrios Tassano, minister of foreign affairs of Uruguay. (Sofia Domestic 0900 GMT 28 Mar 89) In Sofia on 29 March, with Stoyan Ovcharov in attendance, Zhivkov received Hans-Joachim Hoffmann, minister of economy of Saarland, and two FRG businessmen. (BTA 1332 GMT 29 Mar 89)

Georgi Atanasov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, with Petur Mladenov in attendance, received in Sofia on 28 March Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr Luis Barrios Tassano. (Sofia Domestic 0800 GMT 28 Mar 89)

Todor Zhivkov, with Stoyan Ovcharov in attendance, received Hans Joachim Hoffmann, minister of economy of Saarland, and two FRG businessmen in Sofia on 29 March. (BTA 1332 GMT 29 Mar 89)

Petur Mladenov gave a dinner in Sofia on 29 March for CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes, which Milko Balev attended. (Sofia Domestic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 89) (BTA 1745 GMT 29 Mar 89)

Ivan Panev and Vasil Tsanov attended a plenum of the Pancherevo Municipal BCP Committee, Sofia Oblast, on 28 March. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 29 Mar 89 p 2)

Zhivkov gave a luncheon in Sofia on 30 March in honor of CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes, which was attended by Milko Balev, Andrey Lukanov, Petur Mladenov, and Stoyan Ovcharov. (Sofia Domestic 1730 GMT 30 Mar 89)

Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, received CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes in Sofia on 30 March. (BTA 1258 GMT 30 Mar 89)

Georgi Atanasov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in Sofia on 29 March Giuseppe di Gennaro, UN deputy secretary general and executive director of the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control. (BTA 1738 GMT 29 Mar 89) In Sofia on 30 March, he received CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes. (BTA 1258 GMT 30 Mar 89)

Milko Balev, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, returned with a BCP delegation from Rome on 27 March. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 28 Mar 89 p 2) In Sofia on 28 March, he met with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr Luis Barrios Tassano. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 29 Mar 89 p 6) Pencho Kubadinski, member of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Fatherland Front National Council, attended a Greek National Day reception given by the Greek ambassador in Sofia on 24 March. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 25 Mar 89 p 6)

Petur Mladenov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, welcomed Dr Luis Barrios Tassano, minister of foreign affairs of Uruguay, on his arrival at Sofia airport on 26 March. (Sofia Domestic 1300 GMT 26 Mar 89) In Sofia on 27 March, Mladenov held talks with Tassano. (BTA 1201 GMT 27 Mar 89) At Sofia airport on 29 March, Mladenov welcomed Jaromir Johanes, minister of foreign affairs of the CSSR, on his arrival on an official visit, (Sofia Domestic 0900 GMT 29 Mar 89) and held talks with Johanes the same day in Sofia. (BTA 1829 GMT 29 Mar 89) On 30 March he toured the city of Plovdiv with CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes. (Sofia Domestic 1730 GMT 30 Mar 89) In Sofia on 31 March, Mladenov held talks with Giuseppe di Gennaro, UN deputy secretary general and executive director of the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control. (BTA 1341 GMT 31 Mar 89)

Petko Danchev, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo, ended his visit to the SFRY with an economic delegation on 25 March. (BTA 1437 GMT 25 Mar 89) In Sofia on 28 March, he held talks with Yi Chong-yul, DPRK minister of public health. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 29 Mar 89 p 2)

Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign economic relations, met in Ruse on 24 March with Stefan Andrei, candidate member of the Political Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and deputy prime minister of Romania. (BTA 1732 GMT 24 Mar 89) In Sofia on 27 March, Lukanov had talks with Dr Luis Barrios Tassano, minister of foreign affairs of Uruguay. (BTA 1630 GMT 27 Mar 89) Grigor Stoichkov, candidate member of the BCP CC Politburo and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in Sofia on 24 March Marcel Schlechter, minister of transport of Luxembourg. (BTA 1841 GMT 24 Mar 89)

Georgi Yordanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of culture, science, and education, attended a reception given in Sofia on 26 March by the Uruguayan ambassador for Dr Luis Barrios Tassano, minister of foreign affairs of Uruguay. (Sofia Domestic 1930 GMT 26 Mar 89) In Sofia on 27 March, Yordanov had talks with Dr Tassano. (BTA 1630 GMT 27 Mar 89)

Opposition Figures Sentenced by Court

AU1004150889 Paris AFP in English
1500 GMT 10 April 89

[Text] Prague, April 10 (AFP)—Two Czechoslovak opposition figures, actress Vlasta Chramostova and sociologist Libuse Silhanova were given three-month suspended jail sentences here Monday for "attacks against state institutions."

The two, who are both signatories of the human rights monitoring group Charter 77, will appeal the sentence.

Mrs Chramostova, 62, and Mrs Silhanova wrote an open letter to party secretary general Milos Jakes on January 16, marking the 20th anniversary of the political suicide of student Jan Palach in Prague.

The authorities regarded the letter as offensive.

Jakes, Al-Asad Speak at Damascus Dinner

LD1104093289 Prague CTK in English
2034 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus April 10 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes voiced full solidarity of Czechoslovakia's peoples with the struggle of the Syrian and all Arab people against the aggression and expansion of ruling circles of Israel and for lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

In his speech delivered at a dinner given in his honour by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad here today, Milos Jakes appreciated the efforts exerted by Syria to settle the conflict. Czechoslovakia supports the people's uprising of the Palestinians on the occupied Arab territories, an expression of persistent struggle for national self-assertion, which led to the declaration of a Palestinian state.

In the developing process of detente in the world, there is a chance also for the Middle East. Czechoslovakia supports the idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East attended by all sides involved, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Milos Jakes said.

Experience from solving other regional conflicts shows not only the possibility but also the necessity to use the international mechanism for seeking ways towards a settlement of such a complicated conflict as the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question, he pointed out.

Milos Jakes said that he saw with his own eyes the problems connected with the so-called Kampuchean question but also the sincere efforts of Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos to seek and find ways towards its political solution. They have full Czechoslovak support, he stressed.

In conclusion, Milos Jakes voiced the conviction that the talks will be an important contribution to strengthening mutual cooperation and friendship between the two parties, states and their peoples.

"Syria wants just and firm peace in the (Middle East) region to lead to the restoration of law and ensuring of peaceful future without expansion and aggression," General Secretary of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said here today.

Speaking at a dinner given in honour of visiting Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes, the Syrian leader stressed that "peace is not a unilateral matter and all parties concerned must believe in it in order to achieve it. The approach to it must be united and unitedly reflected in the reality. For the time being we cannot say that it has happened and have no proof convincing us that it will happen in the near future."

He underlined that Syria strives for the return of the occupied lands and the rights to the Palestinian people. Therefore it agrees to the calling of an international conference on the Middle East attended by the United States and the Soviet Union or by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Syria agrees to the idea of the conference as an instrument to achieve just peace but "quite clearly and before all participants disagrees with this conference being given the right to enforce a solution as we are not willing to grant anybody the inalienable right to decide our own fate. At the same time we do not want a non-productive conference or a conference whose participants would just idly watch," Hafiz al-Asad said.

Hafiz al-Asad stressed Syria's friendship with Czechoslovakia "which we will further deepen and expand. We want to cooperate in strenthening solidarity of the forces of peace and progress in the interest of fulfilling the wish of peoples for a secure world without threats, aggressions, arms race, and blatant injustice in economic relations."

Hafiz al-Asad further stated that "peace initiatives of socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union which are aimed at disarmament and improvement of international relations as well as effort for just economic relations between countries have our full support as they serve the interests of our peoples and all mankind."

Jakes Makes Official Visit to SRV

Speaks at Hanoi Reception

AU1004193689 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
7 Apr 89 p 7

[Speech by Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, at a gala reception given in his honor by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, in Hanoi on 6 April]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, esteemed Vietnamese comrades; permit me—on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation and on my own behalf—to sincerely thank you for the invitation to pay a friendly working visit to your beautiful and heroic country, for the cordial and warm welcome, for the great attention and care with which we have met since the first moments of our stay in the SRV.

I am gladly taking this opportunity to convey to you, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], and to all Vietnamese people sincere greetings from the Communists, the government, and the people of our country.

The course and atmosphere of our deliberations were marked by the unity of ideas and objectives of our fraternal Marxist-Leninist parties, by fraternal relations between our nations and states. These deliberations reaffirmed the traditional friendship between the Czechoslovak and Vietnamese people.

During our talks, we noted with great satisfaction the correspondence of views in assessing the international situation and the development of our bilateral relations. In the concrete and constructive exchange of views which occurred during our talks we see an important contribution to further deepening the cooperation between our communist parties and the development of the entire breadth of our mutual relations.

Dear Vietnamese comrades, in Czechoslovakia we follow with great affinity the endeavor of the CPV, the SRV Government, and the Vietnamese people for a renewal in all spheres of society's life. We know that the recent sixth CPV Central Committee session addressed the balance sheet of the results achieved after the Sixth CPV Congress. Together with you, we sincerely rejoice over what you have achieved, and we wish you further success on the road on which you have embarked.

Socialism is experiencing a period of transition to a new, qualitatively higher stage of development today. Aware of this, and inspired by the CPSU's Leninist course, we in Czechoslovakia have also begun to realize economic and social restructuring and further develop the socialist democracy. In this we see the necessary prerequisite for accelerating the country's social and economic development, ensuring the further growth of the people's standard of living, and strengthening our state's international standing.

Economic and social restructuring is not an easy task. It requires a creative approach, changed thinking in many respects, and the implementing of new forms and methods of work in further developing socialist construction in both society's base and its superstructure. The sessions of the CPCZ Central Committee regularly address the progress of the implementation of tasks. From this viewpoint, the session of our party Central Committee at the end of last March, at which we assessed tasks of restructuring and in the sphere of education, was also of importance.

In order to achieve the set objectives, we are mobilizing all the creative forces of the people of our country, the majority of whom take a stand for the positions of socialism and support the party's domestic and foreign policy, which is evidenced by their work and social activity oriented toward the fulfillment of tasks in the social and economic sphere and in other sectors of social life.

This year our party has entered a period of intensive preparations for the 18th congress, which will be held in May next year. We are facing extensive and demanding work in this respect. The principal part of this work must be done by Communists, by conscientiously and creatively asserting and implementing the party line in everyday life. In that respect we put great stress on their high level of activity, on their being an example, and on their fighting spirit, on the CPCZ—which is the initiator of restructuring and democratization—acting as a true vanguard of society.

Our parties signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation 9 years ago. The time that has elapsed since the signing of that treaty is not long, if viewed from the viewpoint of our great goals. However, the common endeavor of the people of the two countries has accomplished a lot in intensifying and developing cooperation in all spheres of political, social, and economic life. A part of that also involves raising the qualifications of the Vietnamese working people and their share in the fulfillment of the tasks in our country. We rightly say that our relations are comradely and firm, that they are the relations of nations which have the interests of the construction of socialism and peace on their hearts. This assessment affirms the legitimacy of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, which we correctly consider a solid base in the upcoming stage of the development of relations between Czechoslovakia and Vietnam.

In the course of the visit we will sign an important document—the Long-Term Program for Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation Through the Year 2000. We regard it as an important contribution to the further orientation of our mutual relations. I wish to stress that we are prepared to actively develop our economic relations on a new level, which would respond to a far greater extent to the topical needs of our economies, which would be mutually advantageous, and which would reflect the long-term needs of the development of the international socialist division of labor. We also expect that the perfection of CEMA's activity will contribute to this.

We have already taken certain steps to achieve these objectives. We note with satisfaction the positive results achieved within the framework of production cooperation programs in light industry, but also in agriculture and electronics. The first Czechoslovak-Vietnamese joint venture has been founded, and more are being discussed. The joint intergovernmental committee for economic and scientific-technical cooperation contributes to the development of this activity. The recently signed Memorandum on the Coordination of National Economic Plans for 1991-95 also opens up new opportunities. There is emphasis on the establishment of direct relations between the two countries' specific economic organizations; not only among state enterprises, but among production and consumer cooperatives. We see this as the beginning of a fundamental turn in the existing mechanism of mutual economic relations, in the growth of their expediency and effectiveness.

When assessing the peace policy of the socialist countries and the common procedure in further developing the international communist and workers movement and strengthening its unity, we regard the close cooperation in the international field as a no less important sphere of collaboration.

Czechoslovakia fully supports the foreign policy orientation of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community. At present, our foreign policy pursues two fundamental objectives: creating optimal international conditions for the realization of the restructuring and democratization of society, and contributing to the strengthening of peace and security in the world. We play an active role in the all-European process. A number of our initiatives are oriented toward this, above all toward creating a zone of trust, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Pact states and NATO.

We have sincerely welcomed the developing dialogue between the Soviet Union and the PRC, the results of which create prerequisites for a meeting of the two countries' highest representatives and for a full normalization of their mutual relations. We consider this to be of exceptional importance for strengthening the positions of socialism in the world.

In this connection, we value Vietnam's constructive peace policy that is oriented toward transforming Southeast Asia into a region of peace, friendship, and cooperation, as well as your contribution to the activity of the nonaligned countries. We appreciate the SRV's effort toward a just settlement of the Cambodian issue and a speedy solution of further problems in Southeast Asia. On the eve of our visit, we acquainted ourselves with the joint declaration of the Governments of the SRV, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. We see the proposals contained in the declaration as a constructive and realistic approach, aimed at the elimination of tension in that part of the world. We welcome and fully support them. The policy of your country has met with full understanding in Czechoslovakia. We value equally highly your endorsement of the peace proposals of the European socialist countries.

During our stay in your beautiful fatherland we had an opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the most important aspects of the contemporary life of the Vietnamese people and the CPV's determined effort to consistently deal with the topical tasks of social and economic construction. On behalf of our delegation and the Czechoslovak people, I would like to wish the Communists and Vietnamese working people much success in their work for the SRV's prosperity. Fraternal Vietnam has true friends in Czechoslovakia. With great pleasure, I note that during our visit here we had an opportunity to again convince ourselves that the Vietnamese people harbor the same affinity and feelings of friendship for the Czechoslovak working people. As early as 1982, as a guest at your party's fifth congress, I had the opportunity to acquaint myself with this traditional display of your sincere friendship and solidarity with Czechoslovakia. Since then, the mutual Czechoslovak-Vietnamese friendship has further expanded and strengthened comprehensively.

Permit me to conclude my speech by expressing the conviction that our visit and the results of our talks will yield new stimuli for deepening the cooperation between our countries and nations.

I wish to thank you once more for the warm reception, for the frank and comradely talks.

Talks With Nguyen Van Linh

AU1104094389 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 8 Apr 89 pp 1, 7

[Report by Jaroslav Kojzar and Pavel Kryl: "Joint Interest in More Effective Cooperation Between the CSSR and Vietnam; The Second Day of the Visit by Comrade M. Jakes to the SRV"]

[Text] Hanoi (from our own correspondents)—On Friday [7 April] Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] Central Committee, continued his friendly working visit to the SRV. In the morning he held further talks with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, at which members of the delegations of both representatives participated. On the same day, talks between individual members of the Czechoslovak delegation and their Vietnamese counterparts also took place.

In a cordial and frank atmosphere, Comrade Milos Jakes informed the Vietnamese side about the contemporary economic and political situation in Czechoslovakia, which he characterized as stable. The standard of living is relatively high and is continually increasing, although not at such a high rate as we would have imagined. In order to fulfill the tasks which restructuring brings, it is necessary to activate the work force, to interest them in its implementation, to move over from administrative methods of management to economic ones, and to change the contents and means of central planning but not, however, to abandon it. In this connection, Comrade Milos Jakes stated that the substance of these processes is, in principle, analogous both in Czechoslovakia and in Vietnam. He spoke further about increasing the independence of Czechoslovak enterprises and their responsibility for economic results. The purpose of the elections for directors of enterprises is to heighten the entrepreneurship of working collectives so that they themselves think about their production program and about satisfying the needs of society. The Czechoslovak representative spoke about the changes in the structure and methods of work of central organs, about the need to attend to the basic tasks of the national economy in lieu of tackling day-to-day questions. Comrade Milos Jakes said that without structural restructuring, reform itself will solve nothing and that it is necessary to reduce the material and energy demands of the national economy. This can only be carried out in collaboration with CEMA as well as by the entry of Czechoslovakia into world markets.

Speaking about democratization in Czechoslovakia, Comrade Milos Jakes stated that its further enforcement rests in increasing the roles of the National Front, the national committees, the flow of public information, and in an open cadre policy. In this context the party must activate its work, and in this spirit preparations for the 18th CPCZ Congress are taking place.

Regarding the international situation, Comrade Milos Jakes praised highly the new thinking in international relations and the Soviet peace initiatives. He said that Czechoslovakia is also participating in this policy with initiative, and it is promoting the creation of zones without weapons of mass destruction and zones of trust in Europe and elsewhere in the world. In connection with this, the CSSR fully supports SRV policy in Southeast Asia. He defined the withdrawal of Vietnamese units from Cambodia before September of this year as very important and the discussions between the USSR and PRC as important for peace and for improving the situation in the entire region. He further pronounced the Czechoslovak point of view on various international issues, on southern Africa, on the Middle East, and on Central America. In this context, the Czechoslovak and Vietnamese sides stated their absolute unanimity of views. As far as Europe is concerned, Comrade Milos Jakes said that the CSSR is striving for good-neighborly relations in Europe, that certain steps were being made in cooperation between the CSSR and the EC and also between CEMA and the EC. He said that the situation in Europe is developing in a good direction. At the same time, however, he pointed out attempts by the West to replace military confrontation with efforts toward the political destabilization of socialist countries. He expressed his support for the better coordination of the international communist and workers movement in the struggle for peace and social progress in the world.

Comrade Milos Jakes paid particular attention to Czechoslovak-Vietnamese relations, which are characterized by friendship and well developing cooperation along party and state lines, along the lines of the National Front and social organizations, in the fields of culture, partnership contacts, and so on. At the same time, in economic cooperation it is necessary to push through new elements such as direct links, cooperation, and the establishment of joint enterprises. Comrade Milos Jakes also clarified Czechoslovak credit policy, the aim of which is the achievement of bilateral effectiveness and fast rates of return. At the same time, the provision of credits at enterprise level appears particularly advantageous; their effective use is in their own interest.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh said the Vietnamese side holds the same view on this problem and that the provision of enterprise credits is also proving itself in cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Comrade Milos Jakes further expressed the readiness of the CSSR to participate in some joint Czechoslovak-Vietnamese projects in Vietnam, for example, in the pharmaceutical industry, with the possibility of exporting to third countries.

In conclusion, Comrade Milos Jakes said that the tasks of the CSSR and Vietnam during the acceleration of the development of the national economy are, in many respects, similar, which creates a further basis for the intensification of mutual cooperation. Later, Comrade Milos Jakes invited Comrade Nguyen Van Linh to visit Czechoslovakia. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

After the plenary meeting of both delegations, Comrades Milos Jakes and Nguyen Van Linh met for a short, informal discussion in the presence of interpreters.

Meets CSSR Workers

AU1004165489 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 8 Apr 89 p 7

[CTK report]

[Text] Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] Central Committee, met with a collective of Czechoslovak citizens working in Vietnam at the CSSR Embassy in Hanoi on Friday [7 April].

He informed them about tasks that the CPCZ is resolving in the course of the social and economic restructuring, about the conclusions of the 13th CPCZ Central Committee session, and about the preparations for the 18th party congress. He also briefed them on the results of his talks with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, which were oriented toward the further development of cooperation between the CSSR and the SRV.

Farm Cooperative Concludes Contracts With SRV
AU1004144489 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 7 Apr 89 p 2

["(ns)"-signed report: "Direct Relations With SRV Farmers"]

[Summary] Zvolen (our correspondent)—The Dobra Niva United Farm Cooperative in Zvolen District recently signed three contracts on cooperation in cultivating tropical crops and exotic timber species and on a broad mutual goods exchange with the cooperative farmers in the "Song Be" Province near Ho Chi Minh City, SRV. A group of six Dobra Niva experts will depart in May for a 2-year stay in the SRV to pass on to the Vietnamese partners their experience in management and organizational work in large-scale agricultural production.

In cooperation with the 1 May Rubber Works in Puchov, the Dobra Niva farmers also want to join the CSSR-SRV project for cultivating natural rubber in southern parts of the SRV. Imports of soya beans and other crops cultivated in addition to natural rubber on a 10,000-hectare plantation should help the CSSR accomplish the tasks of its protein program. The negotiations on this cooperation should be concluded in the middle of April 1989.

Johanes, Brazilian Counterpart Discuss Ties
AU1004192889 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 8 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[CTK report: "Czechoslovak-Brazilian Talks"]

[Text] Jaromir Johanes, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, and Roberto de Abreu Sodre, Brazilian minister of foreign affairs, held talks at the Cernin Palace in Prague on Friday [7 April]. They assessed the current state and prospects of Czechoslovak-Brazilian relations. The ministers also exchanged views on topical issues of international development.

Jaromir Johanes and Roberto de Abreu Sodre described the mutual relations as correct over the long term, and founded on the principles of equality and mutual respect. The two sides favored the continuation of the political dialogue and its elevation to the highest level. They affirmed their readiness to make consistent use of the existing possibilities to further deepen contacts in politics, the economy, and culture.

They welcomed the improvement in contacts between the United States and the USSR, and in relations between East and West, and favored the intensification of international efforts toward disarmament. Identical or very close standpoints were expressed during talks on regional conflicts.

The ministers noted that the approach of the CSSR and Brazil to the most important international issues makes possible the two countries' closer cooperation in that respect.

Jaromir Johanes briefed his guest on the ongoing process of restructuring and democratization in the CSSR.

He stressed the importance of and the need for new political thinking in international relations. He devoted attention to developments in Europe, particularly to the successful conclusion of the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna. He underscored the importance which the CSSR and the other Warsaw Pact states attach to the recently initiated talks on conventional disarmament from the Atlantic to the Urals, and the talks on measures to increase trust in Europe.

In this connection he noted the importance of the recent unilateral disarmament measures of the USSR, the CSSR, and other Warsaw Pact countries, saying that a similar constructive approach by NATO would have a positive effect on disarmament talks. He briefed the Brazilian guest on the Czechoslovak initiative aimed at establishing a zone of trust, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Pact states and NATO, submitted by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee.

Roberto de Abreu Sodre noted the exceptional attention aroused in the world by the restructuring and democratization in the USSR, the CSSR, and other socialist countries. He said that Brazil welcomes all constructive proposals aimed at strengthening favorable changes in international relations. He stressed that Brazilian foreign policy proceeds from the realities of the present and from the need to exclude the use of force as an instrument to resolve problems.

He provided information on the continuing process of strengthening democratic regimes in Latin America, which, however, has been meeting with a number of problems arising from the economic difficulties of the majority of countries. He stressed that the Latin American countries are continuing their joint endeavor to peacefully settle the conflict in Central America, that they are cooperating in resolving the issue of foreign debt and are seeking ways to accelerate the region's economic integration. He underscored the growing importance of the Group of Eight Latin American countries, which has become an important instrument for the coordination of a joint procedure in solving all the subcontinent's important issues.

He devoted considerable attention to issues pertaining to environmental protection, the solution of which requires extensive international cooperation while respecting states' sovereignty. In this connection, he expressed appreciation for the proposal of CSSR Premier Ladislav

Adamec to convene a meeting of premiers of the neighboring countries to address environmental protection problems. The CSSR minister of foreign affairs expressed appreciation for the Contadora process and the activity of the Group of Eight, which are the expression of the joint will of the Latin American countries to contribute to seeking political solutions for the situation in Central America, as well as for the region's other important problems. He underscored the approach of the Government of Nicaragua to the implementation of the Guatemala accords and its endeavor to solve the situation by peaceful means. He said that the elaboration of a plan for the demobilization of counterrevolutionary groups, which the presidents of the five Central American states pledged at the meeting in San Salvador, is an important step in that respect.

Trade Turnover With Brazil Examined

AU1004145889 Prague PRACE in Czech
7 Apr 89 p 5

["(dk)"-signed commentary in the "Note" column: "Bilateral Interest"]

[Excerpts] Czechoslovakia's diplomatic contacts with Brazil were established 71 years ago, and economic and cultural relations between the two countries are almost as old. [passage omitted] The past development of mutual economic relations is best illustrated by the foreign trade turnover—last year it amounted to more than Kcs540 million. However, last year Brazil's share in Czechoslovak exports amounted to merely 0.1 percent of the total volume of our exports, which is no longer sufficient today. The same applies to mutual trade: Its volume does not correspond to the potential of the two sides.

That is why the further development and specific elaboration of mutual economic cooperation of the two countries is one of the ideas to be pursued for achieving higher forms of economic cooperation, which could also be implemented on the markets of third countries. [passage omitted]

Government Session Discusses Environment

AU1004171289 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
7 Apr 89 p 1

[CTK report: "CSSR Government Convened; Fulfillment of Tasks Based on Negotiations Between CSSR and USSR Party and State Representatives From 1987 Through 1989 Discussed; Set of Measures for Conversion to Gas and the Solution of Environmental Problems in Prague and the North Bohemian Region Approved"]

[Text] Prague—At its Thursday [6 April] session, the CSSR Government discussed the schedule for accomplishing the tasks following from the negotiations of Central Committee general secretaries of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the CPSU and of CSSR and USSR Government heads from April 1987 through February 1989.

The government approved a set of measures for conversion to gas and for the solution of ecological problems in the capital of Prague and in the North Bohemian region. On the basis of an analysis of air pollution in the Prague area, the government expressed its agreement with a striking increase in the use of natural gas and electric power for heating and to warm up non-potable water, and with the expansion of the centralized provision of heating. The technical prerequisites for not using solid and liquid fuel in Prague's historically preserved area should be established by the year 2000; in Prague's suburbs, the burning of solid and liquid fuel, with the exception of coke, should cease 10 years later. In this connection, the government set specific tasks for the Federal Ministry of Fuel and Power and other central agencies, which should make it possible to fulfill this intention. They mainly concern the conversion to gas of those parts of the city which still lack the necessary facilities for linking premises to the gas system; the modernization, reconstruction, and expansion of the distribution of electric power; and investments connected with heat conduits from the Melnik electric power plant to Prague. Other tasks concern the material-technical provisions that are essential for implementing this program.

The CSSR Government then dealt with the possibilities of speedily improving the unsatisfactory state of the habitable environments in the North Bohemian region. From an environmental viewpoint, this region is one of the most adversely affected areas in Czechoslovakia. So far, the measures adopted have mostly been aimed at operational and follow-up solutions for problems. The government's present program is oriented toward limiting emissions in the ground-level air strata in housing settlements (e.g. developing the centralized provision of heat and replacing ecologically unsuitable fuels by natural gas) and toward limiting emissions from sources such as electric power plants and heating plants (by attenuating electric power production in certain large-capacity electric power plants in the North Bohemian region and by desulfurizing power plants which are in operation). Likewise, the government expressed agreement with the set of material measures to improve the population's living conditions in the North Bohemian region, with the provision that four construction projects—namely, the gradual desulfurization of the Pocerady, Tusimice II, and Pocerady II electric power plants and of the Litvinov heating plant—should be included as a specific task in the state plan, with a budget totaling Kcs7.9 billion, financed from state budget funds.

At the same time, both sets of measures specify how Czechoslovakia intends to fulfill its international commitments that were undertaken in connection with the

Europe-wide program of reducing sulfur dioxide emissions. Moreover, in context with the two issues discussed, the government pointed out that it is still essential to rationalize fuel and power consumption, since this should also cut down requirements and production, and thus reduce the adverse ecological impact on the living environment.

The government also expressed agreement with the conclusion of an agreement between the Governments of the CSSR and the Polish People's Republic on direct production and scientific-technical relations between the enterprises and organizations of the two states. The draft agreement envisages the establishment of direct relations on the initiative of the interested organizations by concluding appropriate contracts according to civil law and in line with the legal code of the contractual sides. The cooperating organizations will be able to conclude contracts for the deliveries of goods or services either independently or via organizations entitled to conduct foreign trade activities.

Agreement on Exports to EEC Countries Signed

AU0704104789 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
6 Apr 89 p 1

[CTK report: "CSSR-EEC Agreement"]

[Text] Brussels—An agreement on exports of Czechoslovak metallurgical products to EEC countries was signed in Brussels by the representatives of the Czechoslovak mission to the European Community and the Commission of European Communities. According to the new agreement, Czechoslovak exports of these products will increase by 3 percent and will amount to 731,319 tonnes.

State Bank Chairman on New Economic Mechanism

AU1004174189 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
8 Apr 89 p 3

[Interview with Svatopluk Potac, chairman of the Czechoslovak State Bank, by Svatopluk Smutny; place, date not given: "Not Only About Money]

[Excerpts] [Smutny] The new economic mechanism will go into effect at the beginning of next year. What measures has the Czechoslovak State Bank already taken and what measures is it planning to take within the framework of its operations?

[Potac] A number of measures had been prepared for this year. The restructuring of the wholesale prices of raw and processed materials, fuels, and products and of the procurement prices of agricultural produce made it necessary to include in their calculation a uniform 6-percent rate of interest. New terms for extending credits on a contractual basis had been fixed, a single-tier exchange rate of the koruna against the transferable ruble and against convertible currencies had been introduced, and the Czechoslovak koruna's rate of exchange against the transferable ruble had been strengthened. [passage omitted] We consider that in the next stage the exchange rate of the Czechoslovak koruna will be put on a realistic footing and that its commercial and noncommercial rates will be unified.

[Smutny] Will monetary policy change under the conditions of the new economic mechanism?

[Potac] It will change completely. Availing itself of bank-monetary instruments, it will contribute to restoring economic balance and have a markedly anti-inflationary character, which can only be ensured when the supply of products, goods, and services exceeds the amount of money in the national economy and among the population. At the same time, monetary policy must protect the economy against an excessive foreign credit burden and against the use of credits to equalize the balance of payments in freely convertible currencies and to import consumer goods. In the long term, monetary policy will pursue the aim of achieving, step by step, the convertibility of our koruna.

[Smutny] It is said that you are too rigid in meeting requests for credits and that in many cases you refuse to extend them.

[Potac] The CSSR Government's policy statement regards curbing inflationary trends as one of the chief tasks of monetary, financial, credit, price, and wage policy. This is why we implement a policy of "dear money." Excessive extension of credits increases the amount of money in the economy and thereby intensifies disproportions between supply and demand in the entire national economy. [passage omitted] The growth rate of operational and investment credits was lower last year than the growth rate of national income. This was the result of a restrictive credit policy and of a more intensive influence on enterprises' and cooperatives' more efficient operation. [passage omitted] It was also thanks to the limited issue of credits that, for the first time in postwar history, there was an absolute decline in the level of inventories in industry and the building trade. [passage omitted]

[Smutny] The making public of the insolvency of scores of state enterprises has aroused lot of attention at home and abroad. This is something which we did not know....

[Potac] In the conditions of the enterprises' extensive development and operation, the problem of such a high level of insolvency did not exist because financial means used to be redistributed among enterprises and because the policy on credits and subsidies had been more liberal. [passage omitted] It needs to be added, however, that insolvency is a specific phenomenon in the economic conditions of the CSSR and that it cannot be identified with "bankruptcies" that are typical of the market economy.

[Smutny] What are the current rates of interest on credits?

[Potac] Credit interest rates have until now been greatly differentiated. Now we charge an interest rate of between 5 and 7 percent on operational credits, depending on their maturity. Medium-term investment credits have a maturity of 5 years for building projects and of 4 years for machinery and equipment. The repayment of long-term investment credits, which have a maturity of between 8 and 12 years, starts from the planned date of the project's beginning operation. The interest rates are higher than the set 4.5 percent rate of return on production assets, which should ensure that new, credit-financed production assets are more efficient and productive than existing production assets. In addition to the aforementioned rates of interest, the following rates of interest remain in force: a 7 to 12-percent rate of interest on stopgap credits and a 15-percent rate of interest on credits that had not been repaid by the set deadline.

To promote highly efficient innovations that are not included in the state plan, the State Commission for Scientific-Technical and Investment Development can defray interest payments, or part of them, out of a reserve fund set up for this purpose.

Deposits bear interest in the range of 1 to 4 percent according to the length of time that they are deposited; this should provide an incentive for organizations to delay short-term realizations of their financial assets.

[Smutny] The development of purchasing power and its satisfaction occupies an important place in monetary policy. Last year's marked increase in purchasing power contributed to a complicated situation on the domestic market.

[Potac] Balance between supply and demand on the domestic market is a barometer of the general situation of the economy and of consumers' satisfaction. Last year's development deviated from planned projections; the increase in purchasing power was almost two times larger than projected. Wages were Kcs3 billion higher; earnings in agriculture Kcs1.1 billion higher; credits for newlyweds Kcs2.4 billion higher; and income from tourism Kcs3 billion higher, with tourists from socialist countries accounting for the bulk of this increase. Besides, withdrawals from savings accounts exceeded deposits.

[Smutny] Will this development not be repeated this year?

[Potac] It cannot be repeated, especially with regard to credits and [income from] tourism. The economically needed development should be safeguarded by means of the needed regulation of wages and incomes from agriculture, by pegging them to the economic performance of enterprises and cooperatives and to the work performance of individuals and collectives. An improvement of the situation between supply and demand on the domestic market is a prerequisite for the planned development of the population's savings. The savings rate and the level of deposits are comparable with other countries of the same economic level.

[Smutny] In contrast to previous years, inventories in retailing are said to have increased last year....

[Potac] Yes. They increased by Kcs3.2 billion and should increase further this year, whereas over the 2 preceding years they had substantially declined. There were, however, serious supply problems either locally or with regard to specific ranges of products. In other words, there was an increase in the inventories of those types of merchandise for which demand was less intense. The solution must therefore focus on goods that are in short supply. In the short term, we must fully meet demand for products for which we have our own raw materials (all types of building materials, coal, wood, ceramics products). [passage omitted] Enterprises that have not been producing consumer goods so far or whose production dynamism is declining because of insufficient sales should also become involved in the production of scarce consumer goods.

[Smutny] Let us go back to income from tourism. Late last year we adopted measures banning or restricting the export of goods that are in short supply, which has been criticized in some countries. How would you respond to this criticism?

[Potac] I have read some negative views, as well as views expressing understanding. What is the crux of the problem? Last year we had 22.8 million visitors from socialist countries, three-quarters of whom came for 1 day (68 percent of all visitors from the GDR, 86 percent of visitors from the Polish People's Republic, and 84 percent of visitors from the Hungarian People's Republic). Over the same period, 6.6 million Czechoslovak citizens traveled to these countries, 35.5 percent of them for 1 day. The 1-day visits obviously have the character of shopping trips. Tourists and visitors spent Kcs9.2 billion in our country last year, which was Kcs3.2 billion more than planned. Our citizens spent Kcs6 billion abroad, the same amount as in 1987.

[Smutny] What follows from this?

[Potac] Tourists and visitors do not buy the entire range of products on sale in a given country but only selected types of merchandise, especially merchandise imported for freely convertible currencies or merchandise that is substantially more expensive in their own country or whose quality is inferior. Some of the purchases are speculative. Also, the fact is not negligible that tourism and purchases in our country are effected chiefly by citizens from countries with which the CSSR has a surplus from goods exchange. We are therefore, in fact, crediting their tourism in our country. With the exception of the GDR, the use of our surpluses to import consumer goods as a counterweight to the higher purchases by citizens from these countries is not feasible. Besides, the exchange rate of our koruna against the currencies of countries with an inflationary growth of prices puts our citizens at a disadvantage and foreign citizens, on the other hand, at an advantage. At the same time, negotiations on changing the koruna's exchange rate against the national currencies of these countries are very complicated.

In other words, it was not the critical situation on our domestic market that forced us to take the customs measures—as one female visitor affected by these customs measures wrote—but the protection of our consumers. After all, other countries adopted similar measures.

[Smutny] When will a normal situation be established again?

[Potac] Tourism is one of the most dynamically developing branches. It has not only economic benefits, but many other positive effects. People get to know one another and understand one another better. The return to a normal situation, so that tourism becomes genuine tourism with adequate purchases, will be possible once the internal markets of the countries bordering on Czechoslovakia are brought into balance in terms of range of products and prices. This aim is supported by the decision of supreme CEMA bodies on the common market and on the convertibility of both national currencies and the transferable ruble.

[Smutny] Should we not make greater funds available to our citizens for use as tourists?

[Potac] This is one of the ways of transferring the realization of a part of the purchasing power from the domestic market to foreign markets. However, this is determined by the possibilities of the balance of payments. Travel to socialist countries is essentially free. For unorganized travel, banks sell between Kcs500 and Kcs1,000 worth of foreign currency per adult and day; travelers to the Polish People's Republic must exchange a minimum of Z1,600. Certain restrictions exist as regards travel to the Hungarian People's Republic.

The number of applicants for travel to Yugoslavia is higher this year than last year but, because our exports have not yielded sufficient funds in foreign currency, only one in two applicants will be accommodated. A total of 390,000 persons applied for a foreign currency allocation for travel to nonsocialist countries this year, compared with 180,000 last year. Although we have doubled the volume of foreign currency available for this purpose, about one in five applicants will be accommodated.

On the other hand, it will be possible to draw on foreign currency funds which citizens can deposit on interest-bearing foreign currency bank accounts without having to prove how they were acquired and to use these funds for the purpose of tourism. The volume of foreign currency funds on these accounts reached $120 million last year, of which citizens made use of $56 million.

Funds for our citizens' foreign travel to nonsocialist countries will be increasing in proportion to foreign currency resources, especially proceeds from tourism. The aim for the coming years is to permit every citizen to travel once every 3 years and, later, even more often.

[Smutny] At the beginning of this year, transition was made toward self-financing in foreign currency. What are its advantages and problems?

[Potac] For the time being, this concerns nonsocialist countries and Yugoslavia. Because we are short of the requisite experience, it had been approved only for this year. Self-financing in foreign currency, that is, the proportion of foreign currency which an organization can retain from its proceeds, should stimulate the interest of enterprises and other organizations in generating foreign currency as a prerequisite for financing their own imports. For the time being, there exist quite a few problems in this whole affair, which are being dealt with gradually. There are still many administrative elements in it. [passage omitted]

[Smutny] In its Resolution No 196 of 1988, the CSSR Government decided on the delineation of functions between the monetary issue and credit activities and on the establishment of new banks in the first stage. What will the new structure look like?

[Potac] The state bank will become a central bank oriented toward monetary policy and the exclusive right to issue Czechoslovak money. Thereby, it will be freed of day-to-day duties. [passage omitted] The extension of credits to state enterprises and cooperatives will be concentrated in two new commercial banks with seats in Prague and Bratislava. The Investment Bank will change its activity and assume responsibility for the financing and long-term crediting of investments and housing construction. In the next stage, within 2 to 3 years, it will be possible to set up additional commercial banks according to the needs of the national economy and the founders' interest.

[Smutny] Is the establishment of joint banks abroad or in the CSSR being considered?

[Potac] The Czechoslovak State Bank owns shares of the Bank for International Payments in Basel, whose members include the central banks of an additional 29 countries. The chairman of the Czechoslovak State Bank represents the CSSR in the International Bank of Economic Cooperation and in the International Investment Bank, both of which are in the CEMA headquarters in

Moscow. The Zivnostenska Bank has a branch in London. The Czechoslovak Commercial Bank has representative offices in Frankfurt am Main, Paris, Belgrade, New Delhi, and Lagos. Two French and one Austrian banks have representative offices in the CSSR.

There are enough foreign partners interested in establishing joint banks both abroad and in Czechoslovakia, and the possibility of setting up such banks is now being considered.

[Smutny] What is your opinion about the CSSR joining the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development?

[Potac] The situation and, in particular, the political atmosphere now are different from 1954, when we left both institutions. The CSSR's entry is, in my opinion, only a question of time, provided that the process of detente continues.

[Smutny] Thank you for the interview.

Official Opposes Multicandidate Elections

AU0604121189 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 3 Apr 89 p 3

[Speech by Otto Liska, member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee and leading secretary of the East Bohemia Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Regional Committee, at the 13th session of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee in Prague on 30 March]

[Excerpts] In harmony with the course of action to be applied by party agencies and organizations during the experimental testing of the principles of socialist self-management by labor collectives and elections of directors, the presidium of our regional committee regularly deals with provisions for elections of self-management councils and directors. In this context we consider questions of the political situation in labor collectives, party agencies' and organizations' course of action, the work of founders, and so forth.

So far the preparation, course, and results of elections have not yielded the expected assets, especially as regards the mobilization of labor collectives' forces and more rapid changes in the economy. Nor do the preparation of elections and people's participation in them stir up greater interest in enterprise and, in particular, national affairs.

The preparation for elections and everything connected with them is intolerably expensive, and Communists and people without party affiliation alike are expressing concern about the further development of work with cadres and about the implementation of party policy. Experience from our region shows that, as a rule, those functionaries who enforced and are enforcing national interests and the needs of the development of socialism and have an exemplary attitude toward work get more "nays" in elections and do not get elected on a larger scale than those who raise popular issues, so to speak. Some chairmen of primary party organizations are finding themselves in a similar situation during elections of delegates to assemblies and, in particular, during elections of members of labor collectives' councils. [passage omitted]

The course of the elections so far thus shows, among other things, that political losses occur, that the leading role of the party as a whole is called into question. Moral losses also occur, not only among those who did not get elected but also among others who went through the preparation of elections. This is finding its expression in political distrust of one's own abilities and of the party's abilities.

The experience acquired from the hitherto course of the elections in labor collectives exposes unresolved issues from the period of drafting the law on state enterprises, the failure to make use of comments addressed to the center. Similar problems are beginning to emerge, for example, in connection with the drafting of the laws on railroad transportation and national economic planning. For the time being, no one knows these drafts, yet the laws are to go into effect on 1 July 1989.

Members of the regional committee presidium recommend that the election rules be modified in time for the second and third stages of elections in the economic sphere and that use be made in these rules of suggestions and experiences from practice. There should not be any insistence by command on several candidates and on the method of voting. This should be a matter for the appropriate collective and the election rules approved by it, on the basis of generally valid principles and laws. It is necessary to render more accurate the interpretation of the elections' mechanism because there have been instances of illogical manipulation with the number of votes. For example, instances of absent delegates being counted as "nays," and so forth.

Furthermore, after the conclusion of the elections of directors and labor collectives councils this year, we recommend a comprehensive evaluation by the highest party bodies of their contribution, losses, and results in all their aspects. [passage omitted]

Cardinal Tomasek on Situation of Church

AU1004085089 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 10 Apr 89 p 9

["p.m.p." report: "Hope in the CSSR Church; Cardinal Tomasek Encouraged by Soviets"]

[Text] Vienna—"The development in the Soviet Union encourages us"; in the CSSR, too, "people are ready to speak up frankly," even though the police still have the "main say." Frantisek Cardinal Tomasek, archbishop of

Prague, emphatically expresses optimism about the development in an interview with KAERNTNER KIRCHENZEITUNG [Carinthian church paper].

The cardinal, who will be 90 in June, places much hope in the visit of Archbishop Francesco Colasuonno, the "Vatican's foreign minister." Focal points of this visit are talks with the Prague government on filling the vacant bishops' sees, but in the view of the Prague archbishop, the visit should "finally bring improvements to the situation of the CSSR church."

Only half of the applicants receive state permission for studies in priests' seminaries. "We also have much too little theological literature," Tomasek complains.

Recently female orders have been readmitted in the CSSR; they are permitted to accept novices and to work, above all, in the social sector. However, Cardinal Tomasek also notes "great interest in male orders" and hopes that these will be permitted soon. They already exist on a de facto basis: "Three or four men live in a community, they just have to be inconspicuous."

In particular the Benedictines from the German-language area want to make efforts to reestablish monasteries in the CSSR. This was stressed by Clemens Lashofer (Goettweig Monastery) in a talk with KATHPRESS. The forced abolition of the religious orders in 1950 had been declared illegal in the Prague Spring in 1968, but the authorities do not permit the establishment of monasteries.

Czech Culture Minister Returns From Japan
AU1104110189 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
10 Apr 89 p 2

[CTK report in the "Brief Home News" column]

[Text] Milan Kymlicka, minister of culture in the Czech Socialist Republic, yesterday [9 April] returned from a working visit to Japan, where he also opened a representative exhibition of Alfons Mucha's pictures, posters, drawings, and graphic art in Tokyo. By the middle of next year, the exhibition will have been shown in nine large cities in Japan. The fact that the exhibition was visited by more than 15,000 people during the first 2 days shows the echo it has produced in Tokyo.

Ukrainian Trade Unionists End Visit to Slovakia
AU1004164489 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
8 Apr 89 p 2

[CTK report in the "International Relations" column]

[Text] The delegation of the Ukrainian Republic's Council of Trade Unions headed by its chairman Vitaliy Sologub, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, ended its visit to Slovakia in Kosice on Friday [7 April]. The guests were informed about the economic, social, and cultural development of the East Slovak region. They also signed an agreement on cooperation between the Slovak Trade Union Council and the Ukrainian Republic's Trade Union Council.

Leaders' Appearances 30 Mar-5 Apr
AU0704112189

[Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech, Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech, Prague PRACE in Czech, and Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak from 31 March to 6 April report the following appearances of CSSR leaders (sources given in parentheses):

The first day of 13th session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee [CPCZ] in Prague on 30 March was chaired by Miroslav Stepan in the morning and by Karel Urbanek in the afternoon. (RUDE PRAVO 31 Mar 89 pp 1, 2)

The second day of the 13th CPCZ Central Committee session in Prague on 31 March was chaired by Ignac Janak in the morning and Miroslav Zavadil in the afternoon. (RUDE PRAVO 1 Apr 89 pp 1, 2)

The signing of an agreement on cooperation between the national committees of Prague and Bratislava by the two cities' mayors, Zdenek Horcik and Stefan Bartak, in Prague on 30 March was attended by Ignac Janak, Ivan Knotek, and Miroslav Stepan. (RUDE PRAVO 31 Mar 89 p 2)

The 13th session of the Slovak National Council in Bratislava on 5 April was attended by Ignac Janak and Ivan Knotek. (PRAVDA 6 Apr 89 p 1)

Jan Fojtik, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, was in attendance when Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, presented to national artist Jan Kozak, a letter appreciating his work at the head of the Czechoslovak Writers Union, in Prague on 31 March. (RUDE PRAVO 1 Apr 89 p 1) He attended a statewide meeting of ideological party secretaries and the opening of the "Days of Hungarian Culture," both in Prague on 5 April. (PRAVDA 6 Apr 89 p 1)

Frantisek Hanus, CPCZ Central Committee secretary, chaired a session of the CPCZ Central Committee Commission for Environmental Protection, in Prague on 4 April. (RUDE PRAVO 5 Apr 89 p 2) He attended and addressed an aktiv of the metallurgy and engineering sector, and was among those who saw off a CPCZ Central Committee delegation headed by CPCZ Central Committee General Secretary Milos Jakes departing for the SRV, Laos, Cambodia, and Syria, at Ruzyne Airport, both in Prague on 5 April. (PRAVDA 6 Apr 89 p 1)

Vladimir Herman, candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and leading secretary of the South Moravian CPCZ Regional Committee, presented to Antonin Jablunek, chairman of the Kromeriz District National Committee, the Order of Labor in Brno on 5 April. (PRAVDA 6 Apr 89 p 2)

Karel Hoffmann, Presidium member and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, attended and addressed a session of the South Bohemian CPCZ Regional Committee in Ceske Budejovice on 5 April. (PRAVDA 6 Apr 89 p 2)

Ignac Janak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and first secretary of the Slovak Communist Party Central Committee (CPSL Central Committee), received a delegation of the Ukrainian Republic's Trade Union Council, headed by its chairman Vitaliy Sologub, Politburo member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, in Bratislava on 4 April. (RUDE PRAVO 5 Apr 89 p 2)

Ivan Knotek, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and Slovak premier, was in attendance when Ignac Janak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, received Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, in Bratislava on 3 April. (RUDE PRAVO 4 Apr 89 p 2)

Jozef Lenart, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, received Etienne Mange of the Socialist Party (Flemish) in Prague on 31 March. (RUDE PRAVO 1 Apr 89 p 1; filed as AU0504112689) He received the heads of socioeconomic departments of the CEMA countries, who are currently holding a conference in Prague, on 4 April. (RUDE PRAVO 5 Apr 89 p 2)

Frantisek Pitra, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and Czech premier, chaired a joint meeting of the government of the Czech SR and the Czech Central Committee of the Socialist Youth Union in Prague on 5 April. (PRAVDA 6 Apr 89 p 2)

Miroslav Stepan, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and leading secretary of the Prague CPCZ Central Committee, attended a get-together with the participants in the international colloquium "Common European Home-Concepts and Prospects" in Prague on 31 March. (MLADA FRONTA 1 Apr 89 p 1)

Miroslav Zavadil, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Central Trade Union Council, met with John Castegnar, chairman of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Luxembourg, in Prague on 30 March. (RUDE PRAVO 31 Mar 89 p 2) He received a delegation of the the Spanish Trade Union Confederation of Workers Commissions headed by General Secretary Antonio Gutierrez, in Prague on 31 March. (RUDE PRAVO 1 Apr 89 p 2) He attended a meeting of South Moravian trade union officials in Brno on 4 April. (PRACE 5 Apr 89 p 1) He received a delegation of the Belgian General Labor Federation headed by its secretary, Georges Derieuw, in Prague on 5 April. (RUDE PRAVO 6 Apr 89 p 2)

Jaromir Johanes, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, received participants in the international colloquium "Common European Home—Concepts and Prospects," in Prague on 31 March. (RUDE PRAVO 1 Apr 89 p 1) He received SFRY Ambassador Dusan Rodic for talks concerning the development of CSSR-SFRY relations, in Prague on 3 April. (RUDE PRAVO 4 Apr 89 p 2) He received Japanese Ambassador Haruyuki Mabuchi in connection with the end of the latter's tour of duty in the CSSR, in Prague on 5 April. (PRAVDA 6 Apr 89 p 2)

Milan Vaclavik, CSSR minister of national defense, attended the reception of Austria's Minister of National Defense Robert Lichal by CSSR Premier Ladislav Adamec in Prague on 30 March. (RUDE PRAVO 31 Mar 89 p 1)

ADN Reports Shevardnadze Visit Postponed
LD1004114589 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1100 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The official visit to the GDR by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, has been postponed by mutual agreement. The visit will take place later at a time suitable for both sides.

CSSR Prime Minister To Visit 17-18 Apr
LD0904175389 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1700 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—At the invitation of Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, CSSR Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec will pay a friendly working visit to the GDR on 17 and 18 April this year.

FRG, GDR Scientists Discuss Disarmament Process
AU1104105489 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 10 Apr 89 p 5

[Text] Frankfurt/Main (ADN)—The policy of nuclear deterrence opposes the formation of a joint security partnership of East and West. This is the view arrived at by FRG and GDR scientists in Frankfurt/Main on Saturday [8 April]. At a colloquium of the Center for Marxist Peace Research and the GDR Institute for International Politics and Economy (IPW) the participants, who included members of the peace movement, Communists, Social Democrats, and Greens, spoke up in favor of continuing the disarmament process in favor of European cooperation.

IPW Director Max Schmidt characterized safeguarding peace by disarmament as a matter of epochal and existential importance. Even though the basic tendencies of the international development are taking a positive direction, a more profound look shows contradictory trends in the area of security policy.

Cooperation Accord With CPSU Institute Signed
AU1004113289 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 7 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—An agreement on cooperation between the Marxism-Leninism Institute of the Academy for Social Sciences attached to the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and the Marxism-Leninism Institute of the CPSU Central Committee for the 1989-91 period was signed in Berlin on Thursday [6 April]. It is aimed at fulfilling the tasks that result for the institutions from the long-term program for cooperation in the sphere of social sciences between scientists and research collectives of the GDR and USSR, which was concluded between the SED and CPSU in December last year. The document that was signed on Thursday contains coordinated and joint research projects, scientific events, and publications on the history and topical problems of the theory and practice of socialism, and on the history of the communist movement, including further cooperation between the two institutions in publishing a complete edition of the Marx-Engels works.

Accord Signed With USSR Shipping Association
AU1004112289 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 7 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] Rostock (ADN)—Specialists of the Rostock Digging, Towing, and Salvaging Shipping Agency (BBB) signed an agreement in Rostock on scientific-technological cooperation, aimed at developing efficient dredging technologies, with the Scientific Production Association STAPEL of the USSR Ministry of Shipbuilding Industries. The specialized shipping agency from Rostock will impart new findings on the economic use of the material excavated from navigable water ways to the Soviet partner institution. This includes modern solutions that are compatible with the environment to develop and reactivate the washed-out areas in the coastal region.

The working people of BBB in Rostock will use the experiences of their colleagues from Rostow on the Don in the future. Both institutions have cooperated for 10 years in performing special tasks on the sea in a more efficient manner.

Shipping Between GDR, Egypt To Increase
AU1104111589 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 10 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] Cairo (ADN)—This year, the goods traffic on ships between the GDR and Egypt is planned to be increased by 15 percent, compared with the previous year. A protocol to this effect was signed by GDR Deputy Transportation Minister Dr Heinz Rentner and Admiral Hegazy, undersecretary in the Egyptian Transportation Ministry, at the 24th conference of the two countries' joint shipping commission in Cairo. The commission coordinates the work of the oldest joint regular service maintained by the GDR Maritime Shipping Company.

Report on Sinking of Danish Ship Denied
AU1004142489 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8-9 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—At the beginning of this week, the news agency AFP reported that a submarine had allegedly sunk a Danish cutter. In order to provide this report with a certain orientation, the agency added that a Danish cutter had been dragged down "by a GDR submarine" 5 years ago. This immediately made the headlines in the FRG press.

The GDR news agency denied the AFP report at once. It stressed that the allegations made by AFP are completely unfounded, because it must be generally known that the

GDR People's Navy does not have any submarines at all. By the way, it became known long ago that the event 5 years ago was caused by a submarine belonging to the FRG Navy.

And what happened with the rectification carried by ADN? Apparently, the truth was embarrassing for those who had invented the allegations mentioned above, and they reacted with an awkward silence. On the other hand, other Western media continued to circulate the lie. The whole event clearly shows how there are attempts to manipulate public opinion, how everything is tried in order to pin something on the GDR, even if submarines which the GDR does not possess have to be invented.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Cambodia Statement

AU1004160689 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8-9 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—The joint declaration of the Governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, dated 5 April 1989, on the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteers from the People's Republic of Kampuchea by the end of September this year constitutes an important contribution to accelerating the solution to the Cambodia problem. This fresh initiative corresponds to the interests of the Cambodian people and to the hopes for peace and progress in the region of all those who are directly concerned. This was announced on Friday [7 April] by the deputy spokesman of the GDR Foreign Ministry, Denis Ruh. The GDR will continue to do everything in its power to contribute to detente and the creation of a zone of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Kleiber, Mozambican Official Discuss Namibia

LD0704163789 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1059 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—In view of the latest armed clashes in Namibia, SED Politburo member Guenther Kleiber, first vice premier of the GDR, and Louis Cabaco, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] party, meeting in Berlin on Friday, demanded responsible action by all parties involved. The agreements reached on the realization of a peaceful path to independence for the country must be adhered to so that the Namibian people themselves can decide on their future, free of any interference or pressure.

During the exchange of views with the GDR politician, the Mozambican guest welcomed the new regulations on foreign citizens' right to vote in local elections in the GDR. It is an expression of the high value placed on equal participation by foreign working people and students in the GDR.

The two politicians discussed other current international questions and outlined the conditions of struggle and policy of the two parties. Louis Cabaco reported on the efforts of the Frelimo party, in preparation for its fifth party congress, to seek together with the patriotic forces of the country timely answers to new questions in the interests of economic revival and social progress under the conditions of peace and regional security.

Honecker Greets Ethiopia on Victory Anniversary

AU0704141889 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 6 Apr 89 p 2

[ND report: "GDR Affirms Solidarity and Affinity With Ethiopia; Greetings on the 48th Anniversary of the Victory Over the Occupiers"]

[Text] Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and chairman of the GDR State Council, has sent the following greetings telegram to Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE], president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:

On the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the victory over the fascist occupiers I convey cordial greetings to you, esteemed Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, to the Central Committee of the WPE, the State Council, and to the friendly Ethiopian people from the SED Central Committee, the State Council, and the people of the GDR.

With feelings of sympathy, solidarity, and affinity the GDR working people are following the efforts of the Ethiopian people under the leadership of the WPE to establish a people's democratic system.

I am convinced that the development and deepening of the close friendly relations between the GDR and the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will continue to serve the welfare of the people of our two states, and the progress and consolidation of security and peace in the world.

Permit me, esteemed Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, to wish your country further success in national construction.

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council.

Latest Statistics on AIDS Cases Reported

AU1004124289 East Berlin NEUE ZEIT in German 7 Apr 89 p 5

[Excerpts] This year's World Health Day is being held under the slogan "Health—a topic for everybody." The number of people who want to do something for their health and a healthy way of life is increasing, all over the world as well as in the GDR. More and more adults are making efforts in this respect. This paper has provided many useful hints in this connection. Today we want to turn to a disease that requires our attention, the immune deficiency syndrome AIDS. [passage omitted]

NEUE ZEIT representatives attended the most recent congress of the CSSR Society for Sexology, which was devoted to the topic "AIDS-related sexual education and advice." Physicians and scientists from several European countries, including the CSSR, Austria, the FRG, France, and others, spoke on this topic. The lectures given by the GDR experts also met with a strong response. [passage omitted]

Ulrich Hinterberger from the Central Institute for Hygiene, Microbiology, and Epidemology in Berlin reported on epidemological research in the GDR. He indicated the latest figures concerning carriers of the AIDS virus and AIDS patients in the GDR. At present 69 persons are infected with the virus, 10 of whom actually suffer from AIDS; 6 of them have already died. [passage omitted]

Deputy Culture Minister Comments on Censorship

AU0904183789 Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German 8 Apr 89 p 3

[Interview with GDR Deputy Culture Minister Klaus Hoepcke by Gerald Grassl in Vienna: "GDR Minister Klaus Hoepcke in Vienna; Inspired by Literature"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Grassl: You have repeatedly called for an assessment of the "terrible crimes of Stalin's time" and warned of "covering up contradictions" in socialist society. However, the showing of Soviet films and the import of the Soviet magazine SPUTNIK have been prohibited in the GDR.

Hoepcke: The decision not to show some films from the Soviet Union was a precipitate action which I do not believe was right. At present, this decision is being reviewed. In the meantime, the film "The Commissar" is being shown again in our cinemas and I believe that all the other affected films will be shown again. [passage omitted]

Grassl: The paper DIE WELT of the Springer Group reported that you will soon be replaced because you also signed the GDR PEN Center's protest against Vaclav Havel's condemnation. Is this only the typical small talk of the Western media or does this report contain a grain of truth after all—in other words, how long will you remain in your position?

Klaus Hoepcke smiles, takes out his wallet, and presents a newspaper clipping: Of course, not a word of the presented report was true, and only one day later this paper had to publish a retraction. (Klaus Hoepcke quotes:) "A ministry spokesman stated yesterday that Hoepcke has neither resigned nor does he intend to permit the Western media to remove him from office."

Hoepcke: Well, it is difficult to say how long I will remain in office. After all, I have performed the functions of my office in which I am responsible for publishing, authors, the book trade, libraries, in short, for everything that is related to books, since 1973. I do not have a schedule. However, I hope that I will be able to contribute to our concept of continuously increasing the comprehensiveness and variety of literature for some time.

Grassl: Thank you very much for the interview.

Hager Delivers Address at Historians Meeting

AU1004193289 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8-9 Apr 89 p 3

[Excerpts] East Berlin (ND)—Historical science must examine the the whole of history as an objective series of facts, as experiences that can be used for drafting the social strategy and as a source of ideology. This determines how we tackle the challenges that Marxist-Leninist historical science is facing in the GDR today. This was the basic idea that characterized a meeting of the "Karl Marx" Party College, attached to the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED], in Berlin on Friday [7 April], which was attended by well-known historians and other leading social scientists from universities and technical schools, party colleges, academies, and other GDR institutions.

In his lecture on "History and Understanding of Our Time," Kurt Hager, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, paid tribute to the successful work of the GDR's historians, with which they are making an independent contribution to implementing the resolutions of the 11th SED Congress. Work on the "History of the SED" in four volumes and on "German History" in 12 volumes was continued. Important projects on the history of political organizations, on the history of the economy, military history, the history of the local workers movement, and on the history of regions, enterprises, and villages have been completed. At the same time, a greater variety concerning the knowledge of history has been achieved. [passage omitted]

The speaker elaborated extensively on topical international affairs concerning the development of socialism and on the unchanged goal of imperialism, which is to impede or prevent socialist development. All speculations aimed at forcing the one or the other country from the path of socialism will remain speculations, because neither the internal nor the international balance of power will allow the destruction of the historically grown foundation of socialism and prevent socialism from further strengthening, he emphasized.

The history of socialism in the GDR confirms that the socialist social system is marked by significant advantages. If we speak of "socialism in GDR colors," this means that we have pursued our own unique path, that we have applied Marxism-Leninism to our conditions, and that socialism in the GDR has developed characteristics that are in harmony with our traditions, preconditions, experiences, and possibilities. Being a bastion of socialism at the dividing line of the imperialist system, and confronted with an imperialist state of German nationality, we are in a unique combat position. This has often been a great burden for us, but it also served as a corrective against dogmatic narrow-mindedness and against an illusionary determination of the pace of development.

Antifascism and Humanism Deeply Rooted in the GDR

The GDR's history has demonstrated that socialism has irrevocably gained a foothold on German soil and has made progress—despite prophecies that it will not last long and despite continued efforts to thwart it.

Another topic to which the historians have devoted their attention is the safeguarding of peace. The 20th century saw two world wars and numerous regional conflicts. However, it also saw the beginning of a new quality of the struggle for peace. It is even known to the circles of the monopoly bourgeoisie today that no side will emerge as the winner from a third world war, but that such a war would jeopardize the existence of mankind. A qualitative leap to a policy of real disarmament was brought about over the past few years, for which the socialist states, including the GDR, have submitted new initiatives. However, efforts by politicians, military officials, and the weapons industry can be witnessed everyday which are aimed at destroying what has been achieved.

The reactionary tendencies that are emerging in the FRG—this is not limited to the entry of neofascist forces into parliaments—are also a topic for historians. This became clear when the speeches and publications appeared that triggered the so-called "quarrel among historians" in the FRG and which were aimed at the rehabilitation of Nazi fascism and its war against the Soviet Union.

The GDR has earned respect in the world because of the humanism and antifascism that are deeply rooted in its society. One basic difference between the GDR and FRG lies in the fact that in our country the economic roots of imperialism were exterminated immediately after the liberation by dispossessing the war criminals and Nazi activists, while imperialism continued to prevail in the FRG against the pronounced wishes of the majority of the citizens, thus making it possible for the monopolies to regain power. The fact that the fascist demon was overcome in the sphere of education and culture has led to a democratic reform of the schools and to a renewal of humanist culture. In view of these facts that have characterized social development and cultural-intellectual life in our country for decades, one can only be surprised at the simple-mindedness with which Western historians and journalists comment on the way the GDR views the history of fascism and with which they are trying to minimize our consistent denunciation of fascist crimes and criminals.

Communists Have Always Worked for the Daily and Future Interests of the Workers Class

After Kurt Hager had spoken about legacy and tradition in his speech, he turned to the history of our party. It is no accident that many ideological conflicts in our time have again and again culminated in the question of the role of the revolutionary party, and that our political and ideological opponents, in their struggle against socialism, have aimed their blows at the party and particularly against the history of the party. Elucidating the great tradition of the Communists' continual work for the daily and future interests of the workers' class and all working people with the help of new facts and connections is and will remain the primary task of historical-scientific work.

The party's path has not been free from mistakes and setbacks. However, the decisive thing is that the severe class struggle has penetrated new social areas. It is part of the responsibility of historians to show the party history in its entirety, as it really was, and to discuss even such painful facts as the reprisals against German Communists in the USSR in 1937 and 1938. We do not attempt to ignore these facts, but we will not treat these events in a sensationalist manner either, as our opponents would like us to in order to divert from the shortcomings and crimes of imperialism and to denigrate socialism.

Great attention will be attached to the development of the firm fraternal alliance of our party with the party of Lenin in fields of historical research and propaganda, Hager said. This cooperation focuses, among other things, on projects that deal with the history of German-Russian and German-Soviet relations.

So That War Will Never Again Start From German Soil

By way of conclusion, Hager noted that there are great expectations regarding the historians' contribution to the 40th anniversary of the GDR. In a year that marks the 75th anniversary of the beginning of World War I and the 50th of the beginning of World War II, it is of particular importance to see how our republic in its 40-year history has acted according to the motto that everything has to be done so that war will never again start from German soil, but only peace.

A total of 12 speakers intervened in the following discussion. Concerning scientific problems of the general and particular history of the world Professors Joachim Herrmann (Academy of Sciences) and Martin Robbe

(Academy of Sciences) presented their views. Aspects of national history and the history of the GDR in particular were discussed by Professors Walter Schmidt (Academy of Sciences), and Rolf Richter (Academy of Social Sciences, attached to the SED Central Committee), and Juergen Hofmann (Academy of Social Sciences), and Joachim Heise (Academy of Social Sciences.)

Professors Walter Wimmer (Marxism-Leninism Institute attached to the SED Central Committee), and Goetz Dieckmann (Karl Marx Party College, attached to the SED Central Committee) spoke about the history of our party and its policies. Professor Olaf Groehler (Academy of Sciences) presented his experience from his interaction with and study of bourgeois historiography. Gudrun Ritter, special adviser and teacher at the 25th Berlin-Marzahn High School, and Professor Hans Henseke (Pedagogical College, Potsdam) spoke about questions of teaching history at polytechnical high schools, and the introduction of new syllabi. Research into military history and the securing of peace was the topic of the paper presented by Colonel Professor Paul Heider (Military History Institute, Potsdam).

Economy Reportedly Achieves High Growth Rate

AU1104084789 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 11 Apr 89 p 10

["hds" report: "Planned Rate Achieved"]

[Text] Berlin, 10 April—According to information from East Berlin, during the first 3 months of the year the GDR economy achieved the percentage share of the growth rate planned for the whole year. The mild winter, on the other hand, did not produce an additional upswing.

National income rose by 4 percent, as during the same period last year. However, Western experts on the GDR have long been of the opinion that official reports exaggerate. The German Economic Research Institute, for instance, calculated that in 1987 national income did not rise by the reported 4 percent but by only 3.6 percent. This was later confirmed by the GDR.

Information on foreign trade has been scarce; foreign trade provides half of the national income. It is only said that an export surplus has again been achieved during the first 3 months of the year.

Industrial goods production rose by 4.1 percent (4.2 percent during the same period last year), net production and labor productivity increased by 6 percent (8.3 percent). The rate at which key technologies are being introduced is said to be continuously high.

Despite the mild weather, construction and modernization of apartments declined to 19,000 (21,000) units. The increase of retail trade turnover by 4 percent (7.5 percent) corresponds to the annual plan.

March Economic Statistics Published

AU1004144189 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8-9 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—According to preliminary statistical indications, the produced national income of the GDR rose 4 percent in March, as compared with last year. Increasing economic achievements were accompanied by further social progress. Housing conditions were improved for 57,000 citizens in March. In retail trade, the population purchased 4 percent more goods than last year. The personal disposable income of the population rose 3 percent. In the GDR's foreign trade, an export surplus was achieved.

In industry, the growth of industrial goods production was 4.1 percent. Net productivity and labor productivity increased by 6 percent. Costs were reduced by 1.5 percent. The application of key technologies continued at a rapid pace. By the end of March, 15,802 office and personal computers had been produced. The production of memory units for computers rose 44 percent, and that of printers for computers 17 percent. The production of monolithically integrated circuits increased by 37 percent and that of semiconductor elements and electronic components by 25 percent. A total of 5,096 robots were produced; this corresponds to an increase of 23 percent from last year.

The rockburst in the Werra region has caused great concern among the GDR citizens. Sympathy and solidarity were conveyed to those affected. They received and still continue to receive support. Great efforts were made in the Werra Potash District to eliminate the damage caused by the rockburst, to solve the housing problems of the citizens involved, and to reopen vital public institutions in the villages.

Within the framework "Return funds to the state—contribute to national income," numerous industrial combines and bezirk councils returned energy sources, raw materials, material and financial assets worth M129 million directly to the state.

In the construction sector, labor productivity increased 3.2 percent. In industrial construction and in the construction of apartments, the plan targets of the national economic plan were fulfilled. A total of 18,765 apartments, 763 creches, 1,926 places in kindergartens, 227 classrooms, and 15 sports gymnasiums were completed by the end of March.

To strengthen the economy's material-technological basis, six projects of the state plan for investment were put into operation. These include facilities for the production of thioplast in the VEB Greiz-Doelau Chemical Works, of wheelsets in the VEB Wheelset Factory in Ilsenburg, as well as the sixth 500-megawatt-block in the VEB "Wilhelm Pieck" Power Plant of the Youth in Jaenschwalde, and two large machines in the Witnitz open-pit mine of the VEB Brown Coal Works in Borna.

In agriculture, the sowing of summer corn was completed in March. The plan for the state procurement was overfulfilled in the sphere of slaughter animals, milk, and eggs. The procurement of slaughter animals rose 0.3 percent, that of milk 1.4 percent, and that of eggs 2.5 percent as compared with last year.

In the transportation sector, the transportation tasks of the national economy were fulfilled. The electrified network of the railroads was extended by the Zuessow-Wolgast and the Eilenburg-Mockrehna sections.

In the individual sectors of industry, the following growth in net production and labor productivity and the following reduction in prime costs per M100 of goods production were achieved by the end of March.

	Net production	Labor Productivity — in percent—	Reduction in prime costs
Coal and energy	6.0	5.2	0.3
Ore mining, metallurgical industry, and potash	0.5	0.6	0.7
Chemical industry	4.9	5.1	0.5
Electrical Engineering, electronics	11.9	11.4	2.9
Heavy machinery and installation construction	3.4	5.1	1.3
Machine tools and processing machinery construction	5.3	6.0	1.4
General machinery, agricultural machinery, and vehicle construction	4.6	4.2	0.6
Light industry	5.8	5.3	0.7
Glass and ceramics industry	1.0	1.3	0.6
Bezirk-administered industry and foodstuffs industry	7.2	7.6	1.4

Within bezirk-administered industry the following growth of net production and the production of manufactured goods for the population, and the following reduction in prime costs per M100 of goods production were achieved:

	Net production	Manufactured goods for the population —in percent—	Reduction in prime costs
Capital city of Berlin	9.6	1.6	2.1
Cottbus	7.1	7.4	1.7
Dresden	6.7	2.7	0.6
Erfurt	7.6	5.6	1.4
Frankfurt	4.9	10.5	2.6
Gera	7.6	7.1	1.6
Halle	5.6	7.6	1.6
Karl-Marx-Stadt	5.3	6.8	1.8
Leipzig	3.0	5.5	1.3
Magdeburg	10.0	6.4	1.8
Neubrandenburg	4.5	2.1	1.1
Potsdam	8.4	5.5	1.6
Rostock	7.7	3.0	0.8
Schwerin	10.7	6.2	0.6
Suhl	7.1	3.9	1.5

Leaders' Public Appearances 30 Mar-5 Apr

AU0704181089

[Editorial Report] East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German from 31 March to 6 April reports the following public appearances of GDR leaders (date of publication and page number in parentheses):

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, presented Academy of Sciences member Peter-Adolf Thiessen with the Karl-Marx Order in Berlin on 5 April. (6 Apr, p 2)

Politburo members Harry Tisch and Hans-Joachim Boehme participated in a trade union meeting in Hettstedt on 30 March. (31 Mar, p 1)

Politburo member Werner Krolikowski and Politburo candidate member Margarete Mueller attended celebrations on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the MAS machine rental stations in Markkleeberg on 31 March. (1-2 Apr, p 1)

Horst Dohlus, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, attended a ceremony marking the 44th anniversary of the liberation of Hungary in the Hungarian Embassy in Berlin on 4 April. (5 Apr, p 2)

Egon Krenz, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo chaired the third meeting of the GDR Election Committee in Berlin on 3 April. (4 Apr, p 1)

Werner Krolikowski, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, attended the delegates' conference of the Scientific Society for Veterinary Medicine in East Berlin on 30 March. (31 Mar, p 1)

Werner Walde, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Cottbus Bezirk leadership, visited coal mines in Reichwalde and Kringelsdorf on 5 April. (6 Apr, p 2)

News of U.S. Trade Preferences Welcomed

LD1004150189 Budapest MTI in English
1347 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Budapest, April 10, 1989 (MTI-Econews)—The news that the United States is about to grant Hungary various commercial and customs preferences has gone down extremely well in Hungarian business circles.

On Sunday [9 April], THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES leaked excerpts from a study prepared for the Bush administration, believed to be part of a "general preference package" for Hungary and Poland.

Officials from the Hungarian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade explained, in response to an Econews inquiry, that at the moment they only know what the news agencies have released about the study prepared by U.S. Government agencies. As soon as they have more concrete information about the study, they will be able to comment in greater detail.

They recalled that there has been regular communication between the Governments of Hungary and the United States, and genuine progress in several areas could do wonders for bilateral economic contacts and the chances of Hungarian goods on the U.S. market.

For a long time now, Hungary has been pressing the United States to extend the period of most favoured nation status it grants to Hungary: Up to now, this has been just one year, but renewed repeatedly. Similarly, Hungary has, on several occasions, asked for the removal of certain discriminative customs duties.

[Budapest MTI in English at 1448 GMT on 10 April at this point carries a service message deleting the following paragraph: "Hungary has offered the United States guarantees that it will not pass on any advanced technology, in return for the relaxation by the United States of export restrictions of such goods to Hungary."]

Hungary learned with regret last year that the United States House of Representatives had rejected the Hungarian request for OPIC [Overseas Private Investment Corporation] guarantees, but hopes the decision may be reversed.

Hungarian officials said they hoped the visit of President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, if they come about, would speed up favourable changes in bilateral economic contacts.

USSR's Bovin Views 'Mistakes' of'56,'68

LD1104065989 Budapest Television Service
in Hungarian 1900 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Interview with IZVESTIYA correspondent Aleksandr Bovin by correspondent Geza Foldvari; date, place not given—recorded; Bovin speaks in Russian, fading into superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Foldvari] I think you will agree with me when I say that Eastern Europe has become a very exciting crisis zone in Europe, indeed in the whole world. In your opinion, what sort of future awaits the European socialist countries?

[Bovin] Look, this problem must be examined within a broader framework. We now—and also the entire international socialist world—live in a critical period of development. Incidentally, this applies to the international communist movement as well. Both the international communist movement and the socialist world are experiencing a long-lasting, critical period of their development.

And it is very good that we have started seeking a way out of this crisis. The most important fact in this respect is the relations between the Soviet Union and China, for they together make up a large part of the socialist world. But, of course, Hungary and Poland are in the vanguard of progress. At one time Yugoslavia was in the lead, but now because of difficulties well known to all of us, Poland and Hungary are on the frontline of radical change. I would very much like for the experiment that you have started—and the Poles will also follow you—I mean the development of a socialist multiparty political system, to succeed. So I will be very happy if everything goes well with you, if this experiment turns out well. I think all Europe [would like this], although certain European states are very different from one another. Well, take a look at Albania or Romania. They live in an entirely different historical era than we do. In the GDR and in Czechoslovakia there are different problems appearing. They have problems, but they also have sausages. We also have problems, but as for sausages, for the time being, we don't have any. [laughter] Well, if we want to put it harshly, this is the situation.

Therefore, different countries cannot be measured by the same standard. We have learned a lot now and finally understand that we are not the most clever ones. For a long time we did not understand this, and we stubbornly believed that we were the smartest ones. For a long time we did not understand this, and we stubbornly believed that we were the most clever and that what we are doing is socialist. Finally, we have recognized that it is not so. We are no different than the others; we can make mistakes like everybody else. For example, we make mistakes in'56 and in'68. So, all this must be analyzed with this sort of background.

Regarding 1956, the right to have the first word belongs to you Hungarians. As for'68, this belongs to the Czechs.

We will watch, listen, and observe what is going on in your country, for you are closer to the problem, after all. For us, one thing is already completely obvious. I would not like to get involved in analyzing the internal reasons for such problems, but one thing is perfectly and unambigusly clear to us: Soviet troops will never again be used to solve the internal problems of other states.

MSZMP Central Committee Session Communique

AU0604164489 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 31 Mar 89 p 1

["Communique on the MSZMP Central Committee Session of 29 March 1989"]

[Text] The Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] held a meeting on 29 March 1989.

In addition to the Central Committee members, also participating in the meeting were the chairman and secretary of the Central Control Committee; the first secretaries of county party committees; the secretaries of the Budapest party committee; the heads of Central Committee departments; and the heads of the central and party press.

The Central Committee discussed and approved:

—the draft position on the development of political openness and on the basic principles of the information law, as well as on the principles of the party's press policy and on the development of the party press, submitted by Central Committee Secretary Janos Berecz;

—a report on the lessons of the party debate on the reform of the political system, submitted by Central Committee Secretary Janos Lukacs; as well as a report on the preparations of the 12th Congress of the Communist Youth Union [KISZ];

The Central Committee heard a report on the celebrations of 15 March and on General Secretary Karoly Grosz' talks with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev; and with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Following the reports, the Central Committee decided on personnel matters. I

1. MSZMP General Secretary Karoly Grosz held cordial, open, and friendly talks with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow. The meeting further strengthened the confidence and understanding between the two parties.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership, Mikhail Gorbachev expressed solidarity with and support for the MSZMP policy. It is also in the interest of the Soviet Union and of the CPSU that Hungary solve its tasks by making better use of the opportunities of socialism, maintaining stability, and by dynamically continuing the reforms.

The Soviet leadership is following with great interest Hungarian domestic policy developments, including the possibilities of establishing several parties. The Soviet leadership thinks that it is impossible to give a general and final judgment on the one-party and multiparty systems. The CPSU does not regard the number of parties as decisive, but rather that people should participate in the decisions and in supervising their implementation, and democracy should mark the activity of all political institutions. It is the internal affair of each nation and each party what solution they choose.

The talks also provided an opportunity for a better understanding of the current Soviet conditions and of the CPSU ideas. Karoly Grosz expressed the MSZMP's understanding and support for the restructuring process under way in the Soviet Union. The fact that people are beginning to understand that restructuring is the only possible way greatly increases the chances for the implementation of these reforms. The most important task today is that the party should choose a restructuring pace that clearly guarantees an undisturbed advance free of tensions. Mikhail Gorbachev pointed out that they should also lay the ideological foundations for restructuring.

The two parties consider it an important task to throw light on the lessons of the past, but they find it unacceptable that facing the past should lead to a division in society and in the party, and to a break in the unity of the leadership. In connection with the events of 1956, an agreement was reached according to which, through party contacts, the Soviet side would make possible research into contemporary documents.

The meeting demonstrated that the MSZMP and CPSU agree on the evaluation of major international issues. The CPSU leadership thinks that today, both in the West and elsewhere, responsible politicians are not interested in destabilizing the situation in East Europe, including Hungary.

The two general secretaries considered it a pressing task to modernize the Warsaw Pact and to strengthen its internal democracy. They also agreed that both sides should strive for the simultaneous elimination of military blocs.

The CPSU leadership agreed with all our proposals for the modernization of CEMA. The road to CEMA modernization leads through the reform of national economies. The Soviet side welcomed the Hungarian proposal to strive to have the exchange of goods accounted in convertible currency, even in the framework of a bilateral agreement. Both sides emphasized that the goal was to establish intensive links with the European and the world economies.

The meeting contributed to the strengthening of confidence between the two parties and opened up new possibilities for the multilateral development of cooperation.

2. In the spirit of the solidarity toward the Palestinian people, we received PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat on 16-17 March. On the basis of his talks with General Secretary Karoly Grosz, as well as his visit with Presidential Council President Bruno F. Straub and to Premier Miklos Nemeth, we can conclude that the positions of the two sides are close to each other on the issue of settling the Middle East crisis.

The visit provided an opportunity to inform the PLO leader about the causes of our initiatives and diplomatic steps made toward certain countries in the Middle East, including the Gulf states and Israel. We consider the declaration of the Palestinian state in November 1988 an important stage in the implementation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Therefore, we agreed that the Palestinians should be represented by an embassy in Budapest in the future. With this step, we also confirmed that we continued to regard the PLO as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people.

In accordance with our principled position, we gave a positive answer to Yasir 'Arafat's request for continued support of the cause of an international peace conference on the Middle East, and for a just and peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. II

The Central Committee discussed and approved the report on political openness, on the political guidelines of the information law, and on the principles of the party press policy and the development of the party press.

The Central Committee concluded that the reform of political openness and information guaranteed by law was an essential condition of the democratic transformation of the system of political institutions. This is based on the assertion of the freedoms of opinion, speech, and the press.

The structure and functioning of the Hungarian press has changed considerably since the party conference. Publicity of various views has increased considerably, and Hungarian journalism has become more varied and interesting. There has been an increase in the demand for authenticity and in the opportunity of newspaper publishers to shape the political line and profile of their press organs.

At the same time, the current situation carries the signs of transition. In some mass media, the professional demand is not high enough, and some of them are characterized by a "peaceful coexistence" with extremist views, rather than by genuine debates. Direct state control and party guidance has stopped, but the new legal conditions and institutions of publicity are undeveloped or are currently being organized.

The goal of the MSZMP is to promote the elimination of functional disturbances by creating legal guarantees as soon as possible. It is the firm endeavor and interest of the MSZMP to see to it that all the views that do not oppose our Constitution and laws and which contribute to the creation of national collaboration appear in the public forums, in the spirit of political and organizational pluralism.

As a result of the social and economic changes that have taken place in the meantime, the press law in force since 1 September 1986 has become inadequate to fulfill its functions.

The Central Committee agrees that, in harmony with the efforts aimed at establishing a constitutional state and with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Agreement on Civil and Political Rights, the new law should regulate—as a citizen's right— the ways, guarantees, and legal restrictions of exercising freedom of speech and the press. In this spirit, the new law should determine the rights, obligations, and responsibility of publishers, editors, journalists, and agents.

It is desirable that the law provide for legal control over the activity of the press and over the financial and procedural rules concerning crimes committed by the press and their qualifying statements.

The MSZMP Central Committee formulated its position on the party's press policy and formulated its tasks connected with the guidance of the party press. The party strives for a correct relationship with all press organs that are prepared to cooperate. It respects their autonomy and seeks to appear as a political movement in the forums of publicity.

In the view of the MSZMP, Hungarian Radio, Hungarian Television, and MTI are national institutions controlled by the government. In their activity, these institutions present the views of large groups of our society and reflect the division of interests that prevails in our society, and thus, they also exercise national control over the government. It is within the sphere of authority of the Council of Ministers to outline general political guidelines for these major mass media, and to decide on major personnel issues. The establishment of the Information Policy Council was an important step in creating a mechanism to guarantee government supervision. It is important that this council formulate the tasks of the national mass media as soon as possible.

The MSZMP supports the need to establish a clear-cut financing system within the framework of the state press policy. The MSZMP holds that it is important to develop market conditions and competition between individual press organs. At the same time, financial support should be maintained for preserving values.

With the increase in political openness, the party press is facing increasingly tough competition. Therefore, it is all the more necessary for the editorial staffs to actively participate in social and public debates, provide publicity forums for various views within the party, and to assert their influence in society as intellectual workshops. They can prepare themselves for all these tasks by conducting an adequate editorial policy, improving personnel conditions, and carrying out a substantial renewal. III

The Central Committee heard and accepted the report on the debate on the reform of the political system, a debate based on the draft position it worked out at its 10-11 February session. The Central Committee thanked the party's members, organizations, and scientific workshops for their observations and useful proposals. Taking all these into consideration, the Central Committee modified its draft position and adopted the decision. In its coming sessions, the Central Committee will consistently deal with the issues of substance, organization, and technique which are necessary for the MSZMP to continue to play a determining political role in society under the conditions of a multiparty system. IV

The Central Committee discussed a report on the activity of the KISZ and its organizational renewal.

The Central Committee agrees with the political platform of the youth federation and supports the relevant political and organizational changes. The Central Committee acknowledges the fact that independent member organizations will emerge during the preparation for the 12th KISZ Congress, member organizations that want to function in the form of a federation.

The Central Committee stressed that the participation and cooperation of young people is essential for social renewal. Consistently implemented economic and political reforms could lead to a genuine improvement in the living and working conditions of young people. In order to achieve these goals, the MSZMP needs a youth-oriented program and a new youth policy.

The KISZ organizations wish to gather young people who believe in socialist values, and the KISZ organizations are working independently and in a political alliance with the party, without direct party guidance. Their cooperation with the MSZMP is based on an identity of values and on common political interests.

The Central Committee considers it necessary for the party bodies, party organizations, and party members to promote the reorganization of the KISZ. Following the 12th congress, the party organizations and members should develop new forms of cooperation with the youth organizations. The party organizations should demand the participation of representatives of youth organizations in the activity of party leadership and party bodies. V

1. The Central Committee heard a report on the 15 March celebrations. The Central Committee thanks all those who contributed to the proper commemoration of the revolution and freedom fight of 1848-49.

The Central Committee thanks the MSZMP and KISZ members, the activists of the Patriotic People's Front, the political organizations, the churches, and our compatriots committed to the cause of social progress and democracy for expressing with their participation the importance of national cooperation and unity.

On behalf of the MSZMP, the Central Committee expresses its indignation over the fact that some people made use of Hungary's national day to voice extremist and antisocialist views which violate the nation's interests and our international relations.

The decisive majority of events involving large masses of people expressed responsibility for the nation's future and the need for unity, confirming our conviction that we must continue to advance on the road leading to the creation of a democratic, socialist, and independent constitutional state.

2. The Central Committee decided to set up a Gyorgy Lukacs foundation to support Marxist research into social sciences and the dissemination of political knowledge. The starting fund of the Gyorgy Lukacs Foundation is 40 million forints, provided by the selling of the building of the Nograd County educational directorate of the MSZMP. Anyone can contribute to this fund with money or any other activity. VI

The Central Committee decided on personnel matters submitted by Central Committee Secretary Pal Ivanyi, who chaired the session:

—The Central Committee relieved Matyas Szuros of his position as Central Committee secretary and head of the communists group of the National Assembly deputies, due to his election as National Assembly chairman;

—The Central Committee relieved Sandor Lakatos of his position of chief editor of PARTELET, due to his retirement, with appreciation of his merits.

The Central Committee temporarily commissioned General Secretary Karoly Grosz to lead the group of communist National Assembly deputies.

The Central Committee will publish all its positions approved at the session.

Berecz Addresses Central Committee Session

AU0404113489 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 30 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report on speech by Janos Berecz, member of the MSZMP Politburo and Central Committee secretary, at the 29 March session of the MSZMP Central Committee: "Janos Berecz on the Draft Law on Information and the Party's Press Policy"]

[Text] In his introduction, Janos Berecz pointed out that those who try to follow the processes under way in Hungarian political life today find it difficult to orient themselves. He also told his audience why, in his view, this orientation is difficult. An objective observer can simultaneously see the unquestionable progress of democratization and also often anachronistic phenomena which no longer resemble the old way of thinking, but which are still far from what one could term the democratic order of society.

A society that is advancing from an old order toward a new one must inevitably cover the stretch of road on which the earlier systems no longer function, and on which those awaiting to be developed do not yet function. Today the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] has to take a stand on matters of political openness at a time when the border between patience and drifting is changing, while there are already people who have lost their patience and who want to solve everything by means of force—things that can be lastingly settled only rationally, consistently, and with a calm principled policy, Janos Berecz said. He then pointed out that public interest was already focused on the issue of political openness before the party conference held in May 1988. There were people in the party who noticed the tensions and who were ready for and demanded the preparation and political application of an analysis carried out on adequate scientific bases. However, the lack of unity between words and deeds increasingly hindered the opportunity for these sensible efforts to become reality. It took more than 1 and ½ years of preparation and struggle within the Politburo until a conference of experts was organized in Debrecen in April 1988, a conference on political openness which provided considerable intellectual power for the preparation of our current agenda. In the documents submitted to the Central Committee, there are almost no major thoughts which were not formulated in April 1988 or during the debates within the party and in the party's research institutes years earlier, Janos Berecz said.

Several Years Are Needed for Reorganization

Today political openness is broader and more developed than at any time in the past 3 decades. At the same time, as for the structure and functioning of this openness, we are still in a period of transition.

The essence of this transition is such that only a comprehensive reorganization of the system of political decisions could lead to a consistent development of political openness. However, the reorganization of the system of political decisions is a lengthy process that covers several years. Today, despite the results achieved, no breakthrough there has yet taken place in the mechanism of political decisionmaking, for this is closely connected to the institutional reorganizations following the creation of a new constitution.

Inevitable contradictions emerge in the functioning of openness in this situation. Opportunities have been created for the public formulation of various interests and efforts, but there continues to be a lack of adequate bases for evaluating the role and influence of individual views and opinions. Learning the extent of these views among the general public and the influence they have is a particularly uncertain and contradictory matter.

Characteristic of this is the fact that, in fact, it is impossible to decide the debate on whether the various movements appear in the mass media in accordance with their real role and weight. It is a fact that the membership of the newly created organizations is relatively small, but the weight of political interests, views, and opinions does not depend on the size of the organizational membership but rather primarily on the social support these opinions enjoy, the way they participate in the political decisionmaking process, or on the way they are related to this process.

For the time being, the various social and political movements are relatively undeveloped and do not have a clear place in the political processes, either. One can now find arguments in favor of the claim that the new organizations receive disproportionately great publicity, as well as in favor of the claim that these organizations do not receive enough publicity. This situation cannot change as long as the political institutions and the rules of the game do not become stronger, and as long as firm contacts leading to organizing publicity do not emerge. In this situation, it can happen that small-scale organizations sometimes receive the same amount of publicity as the movements with a membership of several tens of thousands of people, or even as much as the governing MSZMP. This also explains the fact that, along with honest interests and efforts, ill-intentioned efforts, slander, simplified prejudices, hypocrisy, and violators of ethical norms and norms of good taste could also receive greater publicity. As a result of the press' uniformity in its function of critical discovery, today it often happens that people are publicly slandered, that incidents are often made up of half-sentences, and that the legal mechanism for protecting the personal rights of these people is not yet operating.

Freedom of the Press and the Law

Today, a considerable number of people have an increasing suspicion that political openness is merely a political show aimed at concealing the serious economic problems and increasingly deteriorating living conditions. This belief is not derived from the press or from the intentions of the political leadership, but rather from the fact that the intended political and economic changes are not in harmony with each other, and that we still do not have a functioning economy behind the political struggles which could clearly prove the general interest in and the social progressivism [progresszivitas] of these political struggles, Janos Berecz noted. He then said that under our conditions, openness at all levels—including openness in information and the press—can be handled only if the expression of opinions and the freedom of the press are guaranteed by law, and if the methods of exercising these rights and the limitations on them, including the consequences of their violation, are clear and unequivocal.

The law determines the basic rules of society in every constitutional state, but these laws always reflect the political will of the governing parties as well. We have submitted the political guidelines of the information law to the Central Committee to provide us with preliminary guidelines for the formulation of the law, by expressing this political will.

Janos Berecz then discussed the 1986 press law, which was the first such law adopted in a socialist country.

The new information law will be an important pillar of the constitutional state that is being formed. Among other things, this law should guarantee the right of every party, organization, and institution to decide for itself what information to provide and when, and it also should set out the cases in which they can be obliged to give answers. This is not a specifically Hungarian law. In justified cases, both citizens and institutions are equally entitled to the protection of their secrecy. Uniform openness demands objectivity not only from the MSZMP and the government, but also from the alternative organizations and their press and their political writers. If one side does not observe these rules, any intentional distortion will inevitably lead to mutual distrust and to two different types of openness. To protect both institutional and personal rights, this law should therefore guarantee that anyone who causes moral harm by damaging the prestige of others can be called to account. For this, we should also modify the civil code regulations on the compensation payable for moral harm.

The new law should also uniformly settle the open questions of press management. The body in charge of supervising legality should be given the right to suspend public information and to initiate court proceedings. The financial and procedural rules concerning press crimes and offenses, as well as qualifying statements, should also be regulated.

Therefore, the justice sector should prepare to carry out in a timely manner the tasks facing the prosecutors, attorneys, and courts following the introduction of the new information law.

Pluralism in Publicity

We are convinced that it is the inalienable right of the legally functioning institutions to create and operate mass media and to determine their political profile, methods of activity, and their goals by respecting the Constitution.

Therefore, pluralism in publicity will be a lasting situation, and not a transitional period, a situation that will crystallize in the process of political purification. Our party should accept the fact that there will be press organs which will intend to function independently from various political forces, and that a wide scale of other types of mass media will emerge, from those that sympathize with us to those that consistently confront us, and from supporting opinions to tough criticism.

Obviously, while it clearly supports these wide-scale efforts for democratization, our party will not diminish its political participation and influence in this transitional period; on the contrary. Our party intends to strengthen this activity. We are not bashful, and we clearly declare that we will conduct a political struggle to see to it that our party is adequately represented in the leading positions of our major national press organs, in accordance with our party's true political weight, real influence, and mass support! This is the inevitable task of the coming years, a task which will perhaps involve the greatest conflicts.

Contacts With Journalists

The tensions prevailing in relations between journalists and the MSZMP are not at all new, and the changed situation has only made these tensions more visible and tangible. Our party should urgently resolve its relations with Hungarian journalists, all the more so because a party that does not adequately respect journalists cannot have a respected press. And we should not believe that this can be settled by otherwise important measures like publicizing the Central Committee sessions or the introduction of the institution of party spokesman. We will be able to adequately resolve our relations with journalists only if we genuinely review our previous attitude toward them and do away with the practice of dispensing orders with the attitude of considering journalists only reliable, quick, and precise executors of target assignments.

It is not true that the things currently taking place in the Hungarian press are unprecedented. We can no longer deny the fact that over 30 years ago there was a generation of journalists here that had already called for everything that is either already happening or should happen in the press today. Their personal fate resulted in a great intellectual loss for our party, Janos Berecz pointed out, calling the concept that treated journalists as second-rank citizens of our intellectual life an important element of the mistaken policy concerning the intelligentsia.

In the period of consolidation, some sort of agreement emerged with the most prominent figures of our artistic and scientific life, but no such agreement emerged with the journalists. It was and is no wonder, therefore, that for decades, under conditions in which they could not be members of the intelligentsia in the real sense of the word—because those on whom their selection, activity, and fate depended did not regard them as such—the social and financial recognition of the profession of journalism, as well as the journalists' own self-esteem, touched rock bottom. With some indulgence, today we can call this press policy a "manually controlled" policy, but we would be closer to the truth if we were to say that the expected partnership relations between politics and the press were characteristically replaced by ordinary bossiness and directives.

Zeal and Criticism

It is an undeniable fact that the editorial staffs did enjoy a certain degree of independence at that time too. Journalist personalities were able to emerge and the MSZMP press policy had elements that could be accepted today, too. Compared with the surrounding socialist countries, Hungary had the most liberal freedom of the press, which was formulated in documents and implemented for a longer period of time. But this freedom came to a sudden halt and was replaced by highly centralized guidance.

As a result, executive zeal and obedience, rather than competence or the oft declared commitment, became conditions of professional success. In the meantime, there was also a change of generations among the journalists, and young professionals came to the fore who displayed great sensitivity to the ideas of the age, which, tolerated and supported by the MSZMP too, often emerged from the party's own intellectual elite, in its own workshops. The new generation of journalists did not acquiesce to being left outside the intelligentsia. They sought and found contact with streams of thought, intellectual trends, and groups that carried a new type of openness and the opportunity for an intellectual existence for them. Previous offenses and professional and political ambitions inevitably led to a situation in which some journalists have also taken advantage of the breach in the wall that prevented publicity to pay back certain debts of the past.

This could have been partly avoided if we had reacted differently to the Soviet glasnost. The practice of giving orders continued then, too, and during the mistaken analysis of the situation the belief prevailed that we had long ago done all the things now begun in the Soviet Union. While the Soviet mass media were speaking about radical reforms, we in our press management were experimenting with the elimination of the concept of crisis from our publicity. Only a few journalists, however, were prepared to continue doing this by that time, and they lost credibility in no time. These tactics also contributed to the fact that the publicity-oriented movements were searching for forms of asserting themselves outside the party, and the party's influence on journalists diminished; this is a situation that is difficult to overcome.

The processes that have occurred since then led to conditions in which the outlines of an opportunity for a healthy compromise emerged. The changes that have occurred in publicity, as well as the comprehensive reform of our political institutions, made it possible to gradually create the conditions for unity within the party on these issues too. The time has come to declare that radical changes are inevitably accompanied by an exaggerated emphasis on critical elements, and that stong feelings could properly be applied in eliminating conditions in which politics is replaced by bureaucracy. However, great problems could emerge if this were to become a relatively lasting and determining feature of social communication. Only an objective and rational society, and one able to control its own passions, can create a constitutional state and consistently democratic conditions.

Variety and Disproportion

In the current transitional period Hungarian journalism has become more varied and interesting and has acquired a more human face. At the same time, this variety contains various elements of human and political disrespect.

In the period in which the old system of press management is being dismantled and a new democratic constitutional state is being built, we lack the means to contain efforts to acquire cheap popularity in publicity within rational and ethical boundaries. There has been an increase in the number of phenomena that, with disregard for the consequences and attempts to outbid each other, try to present both our past and present as a single scandalous gossip chronicle, disregarding the fact that this offends the dignity of honest people and besmirches things that are clean. Such irresponsibility has frequently manifested itself recently in the placing of an unnecessary burden on our foreign relations, thus causing not only diplomatic but also economic and other disadvantages to our society.

Characteristic of this is the fact that, on the occasion of the recent visit by a delegation of the European Parliament, the press focused its attention on the descendant of a former ruling house, rather than on the political substance of this event! This led to a lack of comprehension on the part of the European public and to the offense that was taken by the European Parliament delegation, because this emphasis on the unessential aspect of the visit completely obscured the essential aspect, the importance of the visit made by this delegation, namely that this was the first visit by such a delegation to a socialist country! These cases go beyond the journalists' momentary intentions and moral conditions, and therefore occasional storms are not enough to deal with this. These things are not the result of openness, but a reflection of the fact that the internal ethical values and self-correcting processes of this social group either disappeared earlier or have not even developed.

The publicity club was also mainly created by the press management, rather than by merely exaggerated desires to act in public or by desires to be in opposition. It was a mistake to resist these initiatives at the beginning. This has weakened rather than strengthened our positions! Our party acted correctly when we encouraged the self-organization aimed at reforming the Journalists Association. Many passionate and extremist speeches were heard at the last meeting of the association, but I can inform the Central Committee that, each time a vote was carried out, these passions and extremist positions remained in the minority, and all this happened without attempts to interfere in the events to the slightest extent. Therefore, there are promising signs that show that the Journalists Association will have the necessary strength to recreate the order of ethical values of journalism, and the overwhelming majority of journalists will show enough self-discipline to observe these values.

Who Owns MTI, Hungarian Television, and Hungarian Radio?

Janos Berecz spoke in detail about the market effects that influence the press, effects that have already caused wage tensions with temporary political consequences between the over-centralized and obsolete publishing organizations and the journalists employed by the new press. The former are not only financing an unnecessarily inflated administrative apparatus but, in order to avoid internal tensions, are also limiting the journalists' wages according to the employee's assignment. Thus, with low expenditure for manpower, certain editorial staffs are trying to assign twice as many mediocre or even weaker journalists for a job that three well-paid journalists could carry out perfectly. This is an intolerable situation, and not only because it is unjust. This state of affairs only promotes a lack of quality and indiscipline, preserves mediocrity, overestimates simplicity, and underestimates talent and devotion, and therefore this situation urgently needs to be changed.

Much has been said lately about the fact that our major mass media—television, radio, and MTI—should belong to the nation. This is an unquestionable fact, but I would add a few observations here.

First: This is a governmental and political issue, and not a management or organizational issue.

Second: A democratically elected and supervised government should exercise control over the nation's institutions, and this control should directly cover decisions on major personnel issues and the formulation of general political guidelines for these institutions. It is a mistake to confront the nation with government power. Also as regards its mass media policy, a government supervised by the nation through democratic institutions asserts the people's power, and not the power of a narrow circle.

Third: Television, radio, and MTI, rather than reporters, editors, and appointed leaders, make up these national institutions. The division or breaking up of these institutions is not in line with a constitutional state and democracy, and therefore we should take a stand against such efforts. These institutions should function in the political forefront of the government in power, but they should not become an anarchic mouthpiece for various factional goals and ideas. In our view, in addition to their general public function, the electronic mass media owned by the government should strive for political objectivity, and daily political struggles and the constant revision of the general guidelines of the government in power have and should have no place in their internal workshops and programs. This is not yet the case at present, and therefore the government should be able to carry out its will in these institutions by means of an adequate and deliberate cadre policy, by means of supervision and guidance, and by firmly raising the financial and technical level of these institutions.

In addition to political means, we should attach great importance to the creation of financial and technical conditions, and the creation of these financial and technical conditions is also a major political issue today.

The State of Party Newspapers

Speaking about the MSZMP newspapers, Janos Berecz pointed out that, compared with previous times, their importance will increase considerably. Some issues require reevaluation, such as the fact that these newspapers and journals should not be subordinated exclusively to some leading bodies or the apparatus serving these bodies. The party policy determines the principled character of these newspapers, the editorial collective determines their strategy, and the person of the chief editor determines the tactical implementation of this strategy. We should not allow any newspaper to become the spiritual center of factional efforts, but we should see to it that these newspapers provide space for various platforms and their debates!

The MSZMP newspapers and journals are not yet prepared for all this, just as they are not prepared for the argumentative struggle with our political opponents, a struggle that requires great intellectual and political conditions. Strengthening and invigorating the cadres of our editorial staffs is one of our urgent tasks, and it also requires financial resources. However, we should release such financial resources now in order to create in good time the modern technological conditions for the publication of NEPSZABADSAG, if we do not want to have insurmountable disadvantages in the competition for the masses in a few years, Janos Berecz pointed out. He then spoke in detail about the political characteristics of the party newspapers.

In spite of our party's current difficult financial and management situation, we should concentrate considerable resources here because these editorial staffs are in the front line of political struggle today. We must accept this, for we cannot avoid it. Further consideration should also be given to the need to make it a moral obligation for the party members to subscribe to one of the party press organs, as it is the practice in several large

Western parties. However, this is an issue of the period of political reorganization we are facing, and this question should be solved following the development of a multiparty system, in accordance with the situation that will prevail at that particular time.

In conclusion, Janos Berecz pointed out that we are now guided by the desire to reduce this transitional period when the former practice of limited publicity can no longer continue, but when the legal guarantees for the new institutional framework and democratic order are not yet functioning. On behalf of the Politburo, I ask you to debate this report and make the appropriate decisions!

KISZ Central Committee Meets 9 April

LD0904174989 Budapest MTI in English 1610 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Budapest, April 9 (MTI)—On Sunday [9 April], the last session of the Central Committee [CC] of the Communist Youth Union of Hungary (KISZ) discussed preparations for the 12th KISZ Congress, which would take place from April 21 to 23.

The Central Committee heard a report by First Secretary Imre Nagy on the latest session of the HSWP [Hungarian Socialist Workers Party] Central Committee which also dealt with preparations for the KISZ congress and the prospects of the youth movement. Mr Nagy summed up the experience gained in the delegates' meetings since the middle of March. He emphasized that the participants discussed a variety of topics, including their relationship to the KISZ and the party of the youth organization, in general, they called for a change and expected the congress to elaborate a new programme and set new directions.

The Central Committee heard a report on the work of the committee preparing nomination. Since the national KISZ conference there have hardly been any new proposals for the leaders of the new youth federation. Most KISZ members recommended Imre Nagy, Peter Kiss, first secretary of the KISZ Budapest Committee, and Ferenc Gyurcsany, secretary of the KISZ CC. Since the latter two did not accept nomination, at the congress the nominating committee will recommend Imre Nagy as the leader of the youth federation. Mr Gyurcsany withdrew because he thought that his opinion was still in minority. Together with 13 other KISZ CC members, he addressed a public letter to the congress, criticizing the union and its political practice and urging to found a new left-wing political youth organization.

Ikarus Firm Ceases Production in Price Dispute

LD1004111589 Budapest MTI in English 1032 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Budapest, April 10 (MTI)—Since Ikarus' [bus company] Szekesfehervar plant ceased production on Friday [7 April] and its Budapest unit on Monday, a total of more than 2,000 workers have been sent on compulsory leave.

Work will be resumed only after a price dispute is settled with Ikarus' cooperation partners, mainly the Csepel vehicle factory. Employees are expected to be another 3 days off work in Szekesfehervar and 2 in Budapest.

As reported, Ikarus refused to accept the 12-per-cent rise in Csepel's chassis prices and similar price rises by its other partners. Industry ministry officials are among those now around the table for the relevant coordination talks.

Ninety per cent of Ikarus' annual production of 13,000-14,000 buses go for export.

'Arafat Begins Official Visit, Meets Leaders

Jaruzelski, 'Arafat Begin Talks

LD1004192289 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and president of the Palestinian state, has commenced his official visit to Poland at the invitation of Wojciech Jaruzelski. The Palestinian guest was welcomed at Warsaw Okecie Airport by Wojciech Jaruzelski. Next, the two leaders held talks in the Belweder Palace. The subject of the meeting was issues related to the present state of relations between Poland and the PLO and some international and regional issues, including the conflict in the Middle East. During the talk Poland's support for the activity of the Palestinian leadership aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict was reiterated and the conviction was expressed that it will lead to the fulfilment of the just aspirations of the Palestinian nation to self-determination and their own state.

The leaders came out in favor of holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations on the issue of the Middle East.

Rakowski Receives 'Arafat

LD1004193389 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has been received by Mieczyslaw Rakowski. The prime minister stressed the continuous support of the authorities of our country and the Polish society for the just struggle of the Palestinians. He also expressed satisfaction with the state of contacts between Poland and the PLO.

'Arafat Holds News Conference

LD1104123489 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1005 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization and president of the Palestinian state, ends his official visit to Poland today. Today our guest had a meeting with Sejm Speaker Roman Malinowski. And just a moment ago Yasir 'Arafat's news conference came to an end.

[Begin recording] [Slomkowski] TRYBUNA LUDU, Slomkowski. I have two questions. First, when can we expect a Palestinian Government to be formed, now that the president has been named? And my second question is: What factors can now be regarded as promoting the convening of an international conference, and, conversely, what is the main impediment?

['Arafat in Arabic with simultaneous Polish translation] As far as the first question about the setting up of a Palestinian Government is concerned, as you know the Palestinian National Council decided to entrust the PLO Executive Council with the functions of Palestinian government until the latter is established. As you know, this situation will persist until a Palestinian Government is finally formed—as the peace process develops, of course. [end recording]

Rakowski Reviews Roundtable Agreements

LD1104001789 Warsaw PAP in English 2353 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Warsaw, April 10—The Polish Government under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski today reviewed and accepted with satisfaction the outcome of the roundtable talks.

The agreements adopted at the roundtable are concordant with the government's guidelines and the programme of work which is already now being put into practice. This programme was confirmed in the social accord. The government declares a firm will to implement all agreements.

The Council of Ministers drew up a programme of work aimed at implementing the provisions of the agreement. The sociopolitical committee will prepare a plan of necessary legislative changes. The economic committee will adopt a programme of implementation of agreements concerning economy and social policy. The finance minister is going to analyze and estimate the costs of the respective undertakings.

Also today, the government adopted:

—draft law on changing prerogatives to issue implementing acts,
—draft amendments to the law on state statistics,
—draft changes in social policy. In tune with the roundtable agreements mechanisms of indexation will be introduced with a view to securing a constant relation between basic allowances and wages. The principle of valorization of retirement and disability pensions will be strictly adhered to. All family allowances will not be lower than 5,300 zlotys for one child no matter how high the pay.
—draft law on state-church relations,
—draft law on guarantees of freedom of conscience and religion, prepared by a drafting team appointed by the office for religious affairs and the Polish ecumenical council,
—draft law on insurance of the clergy.

Rakowski Grants Interview to Budapest Paper

AU1104081989 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 31 Mar 89 p 5

[Interview with Polish Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski by university lecturer Matyas Lajos Szabo in Warsaw; date not given: "Where Is Polish Pluralism Heading?]

[Text] Matyas Lajos Szabo, lecturer at the Lorand Eotvos Science University, visited Poland recently to study the Polish social and political processes. At the request of MAGYAR NEMZET, he interviewed Mieczyslaw Rakowski.

Social Awareness

[Szabo] As a result of the changes that occurred at the end of 1988 and the beginning of 1989, it is already certain today, in March 1989, that this year will enter the annals as a turning point. In your view, what is the main reason for this?

[Rakowski] The main reason is obviously the implementation of the idea of the roundtable, namely the beginning of a dialogue with an opposition that has always been present in Poland—but people either refused to acknowledge its presence, or they fought against it. The roundtable has opened a new stage in our relations with the opposition. The essence of this new stage is that it should create conditions that will make possible the involvement of the opposition in our political system.

[Szabo] If, as you say, today we are talking about the need to involve the opposition into the political system, how has this become possible? Not long ago, on 13 December 1981, you were still talking about the introduction of martial law.

[Rakowski] We can also say that, if there had been no martial law, today we would not be able to talk about a roundtable either. At the same time, in addition to economic changes, since then we have taken considerable reforming steps in the direction of structural change.

[Szabo] What is the reason for the inability of these reforms to bring about deeper changes?

[Rakowski] The main obstacle hindering the reform of the socialist system lies in the sphere of social awareness, and this has already become an objective obstacle today. Even the most refined reform concept encounters serious obstacles. In my view, all the socialist countries have the greatest problem precisely with the awareness sphere. Today everyone is striving to assert economic rules. However, when we begin to act precisely according to these rules, everyone demands a 30,000-zloty wage increase for workers. People do not want to accept that, if we create production based on the principles of competition, there will be both losers and winners.

The Price of Idealism

And here is the other element: The market should decide on the economy. All right. However, there have always been people who gain and people who lose on the market. In the meantime, the present socialist system educated society to believe that every member of society can only win. Therefore, people regard the state as an institution that is obliged to always guarantee winners. Obviously, we were idealists when we began the revolutionary transformation of economic and political conditions in 1945. We have to pay a heavy price for this today. Essentially, all that is happening in Poland today is nothing other than doing away with a utopia.

[Szabo] A utopia?

[Rakowski] Yes, a utopia. Unfortunately, we are unable to break with the past period and the accumulated social awareness without paying the aforementioned price.

[Szabo] You mentioned the fact that social awareness is the major obstacle hindering the changes. However, I think that in addition to this we should also mention the reasons that derive from the so-called Stalinist economic and political model.

[Rakowski] Of course, but these reasons also lead back to social awareness. If for 40 years the entire society, both leaders and subordinates, has lived according to the values of a determined life style, we should not think that all this can change in 10 years. The Stalinist regime also had its logic. The problem is not so much that this logic was not adjusted to modern conditions, but rather the fact that this logic did not take the individual into consideration.

[Szabo] In your view, is this the essence of the Stalin utopia?

[Rakowski] Mostly, yes. Dictators appeared in certain periods in history, dictators who tried to implement their firm and extremely idealistic image of society, and they also obtained a certain public support. However, none of these dictators succeeded in implementing their social goals, because their system collapsed either during their lifetime or following their death. One of the best examples of this is Mao Zedong who had a firm idea about what the new China should look like. He mobilized millions of people and destroyed millions of people. However, a great change took place after his death. Today, China is one of the socialist countries that is most committed to socialism. Looking for the reasons for this, I would draw your attention to an interesting paradox. This paradox helped us understand why China has gone for such profound reforms. The aforementioned paradox can be found in the destruction of cadres brought about by the cultural revolution. They destroyed the cadres and, simultaneously, they also destroyed a really strong opposition.

The Reformer Is a Dictator

[Szabo] As a result of confrontations, many people today think that the dictatorship of reform continues in Poland.

[Rakowski] I think that every reformer is also a dictator in a certain respect, because he has clear-cut goals and he would also like to implement these goals. My goal, for example, is to rationalize our economic system. One has to apply force to achieve this. Of course, this cannot be a military or police force, but only an economic force. In my view, one should not interpret a firm policy conducted in a specific situation as a dictatorial method. Unfortunately, on the other side in Poland there is still need for manual control [kezi vezerles].

[Szabo] Does this transitional period represent the establishment of a pluralist system in politics?

[Rakowski] There is no question about it. But everything is new for us and untested by us here. Therefore, there are many question marks. The Polish party has a much more difficult starting point than the opposition, because the opposition today says that everything one claims is only propaganda and efforts to achieve a positive economic development [konjunktura]. So far, one has been able to achieve neither of these two things.

[Szabo] The Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] needed some sort of a considerable change and the emergence of a reform wing in order to make a decision on pluralism.

[Rakowski] The essence of this change is that we succeeded in making the idea of a roundtable discussion—of the need for a dialogue between the party and the opposition— accepted. The activity of the reform-oriented forces within the PZPR brought about this result, because the conservatives did not want to agree with this dialogue.

[Szabo] In your opinion, what will be the major elements of the new Polish political system?

[Rakowski] Today, we have almost completely agreed on the timing of elections and on the new election law, that is, on the methods of election. The new institutions, like the office of the president and the senate, will join this. Our country's new political structure will emerge on the basis of the final agreements reached at the roundtable and after the elections. The opposition will also participate in parliament. However, the opposition wants to remain an opposition. The opposition is probably afraid to join the regime because, objectively and historically, it will also be responsible for everything that happens, even if it does not join the government.

[Szabo] Thus, the opposition in Poland will resemble the opposition functioning today in the present bourgeois democracies?

[Rakowski] Yes, but they also need time for this. In their view, they need 4 years to be able to organize themselves adequately. Therefore, they accepted the temporary solution.

[Szabo] In your view, what are the external conditions for creating a new Poland today?

[Rakowski] The conditions within the socialist camp are quite good today.

Axis

[Szabo] Do you really feel that? Do you not think that a Moscow-Warsaw-Budapest axis has emerged among the socialist countries, an axis characterized by a stronger reform policy?

[Rakowski] Well, why are the conditions adequate? First, because our relations with the Soviet Union and the current Soviet leadership are quite good. No Pole today can say that anyone disturbs him in running his home. Those times are over.

[Szabo] In your view, is this policy a broader concept than Gorbachev's personality?

[Rakowski] Of course. I think of restructuring as a political concept in a wider sense of the word. And this is the most important thing for us today. Concerning the other socialist countries, I can say that all of them have entered a phase in which they increasingly emphasize their national characteristics.

[Szabo] In my view, it seems that the Moscow-Warsaw-Budapest reform axis has in a certain respect become isolated. For example, we Hungarians have a serious controversy with Romania. While I must say that we have been able to read most about the Hungarian-Romanian dispute in the Polish press, and this is good, I see, excuse me Mr Premier, a lack of firm support for the Hungarian Government on the part of the Polish Government.

[Rakowski] As prime minister of the Polish Government, I cannot join this debate by taking sides. I think that certain debates between the socialist countries are inevitable in this historical transition period. I cannot tell you now how we will solve these debates. However, in the present conditions, making these debates international would have a negative effect.

Warsaw Is Not Neutral

[Szabo] Can we say that the attitude of the Polish Government involves some sort of neutrality?

[Rakowski] No. This is not neutrality. I believe that making such bilateral debates international would harm socialism as a whole. At the same time, I have confidence in eternal historical rights, in the sense of the realism of the forces that participate in the conflicts, and in the fact that they will eventually find a solution that is acceptable to both sides. However, I leave this to history and to events.

[Szabo] Do you plan to visit Hungary in the near future?

[Rakowski] There have already been signs of a possible meeting with your premier in the spring.

[Szabo] You have not met him yet officially?

[Rakowski] Not yet. So far, he has not made an official proposal for such a meeting. On my own initiative, I visited the Soviet Union, and this is understandable. I also visited the GDR, which is an extremely important ally for us. At the same time, Willy Stoph is older than I am, and therefore I had to initiate the meeting, which I did. As far as the other socialist countries are concerned, a visit depends on an initiative by them.

Rakowski Addresses Farmers Circle Congress

LD1004194989 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The Ninth Farmers Circles Delegates National Congress has started its 3-day proceedings.

Besides the Farmers Circles representatives, rural housewives, members of Farmers Circles cooperatives and farmers representing breeders' and producers' unions have also come to Warsaw. The congress is attended by representatives of the top political and state authorities. From the outset the discussion was very stormy. The farmers wanted to know when their incomes would equal those of the urban population and when the uncontrolled growth in the prices of machinery and fertilizers would stop. Also taking part in today's discussion were Roman Malinowski, Zbigniew Michalek and Mieczyslaw Rakowski, who said, among other things:

[Begin Rakowski recording] We must take good care of everything that has been created over the past decades by the working and peasant classes, we must consolidate the historic achievements of the Polish people, and develop and multiply them. I am reminding you of this duty because over the last few years and during recent months it has become fashionable to negate the great achievements of the four decades, as well as those of the eighties. On the Polish stage there have appeared politicians, journalists and public activists who, judging from that which they say and write, think that they will get no public support unless it follows unequivocally from their arguments that the worker and peasant left, taking power in 1944, has ruined the country and wasted the chance it had. That is demagoguery calculated to win over those who do not remember—since they cannot—the almost hopeless starting point for a country ruined by war, as well as the economic and social backwardness both in the countryside and in towns. The demands put forward today, which contain calls for a rapid and effective removal of the results of the economic crisis and for speeding up the rate of reforming the economy, are understandable. But we must not forget that they are formulated by a society which is at a much higher level of economic and social development than during the first decades of the existence of People's Poland.

Soon, guaranteed minimum procurement prices for basic agricultural produce will be introduced which will ensure profitability of agricultural production and the appropriate income level for the people of agriculture. To put it more clearly—the procurement prices will be increased. The purpose of introducing market mechanisms in agriculture is first and foremost to ensure increased food production and better incomes for the people in agriculture. We are counting on the farmers' well-known ability to count, which has always been based on common sense and sound economic principles. Another issue is the priorities and associated restructuring, that is reorganization of the national economy.

Over the last few weeks we have heard more and more often accusations that the premier had said that the issue of agriculture was the most important thing, but in practice actually very little was being done in that direction. This is a view which I cannot agree with. I would like to add here, as an aside, that I wrote my Sejm speech myself and that I myself, on my own initiative, appreciating the importance of agriculture, made agriculture the main objective of government policies for today, tomorrow and the day after. Provided, of course, my strength and health last. [applause]

I understand the significance of agriculture. Like many of my compatriots I know that for our agriculture to provide enough food—and that is, after all, possible—requires, among other things, very extensive changes in the structure of industry. We are striving and shall continue to strive in that direction. Last year investment in agricultural and food industry increased by 14 percent, while in the industries which manufacture agricultural means of production it increased—after falling for many years—by 27 percent. We have to take into consideration the real abilities of the Polish economy. I do not want anyone at any time in the future to accuse me of adventurism, the price of which is high, as a rule. [end recording]

[Announcer] During the 1st day of the congress a large group of farmers received high state decorations. Tomorrow there are proceedings in topic groups and the continuation of the plenary discussion.

Slisz Delivers Speech at Roundtable 5 April

AU1004172889 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 7 Apr 89 p 6

[Speech by Jozef Slisz at the plenary session of the "roundtable" held at the Palace of the Council of Ministers in Warsaw on 5 April]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen,

The road that led us to the "roundtable" was difficult and rough. We met here knowing that the country was in a difficult situation and that we faced awkward problems, some of which have still not been completely settled. However, the 2 months that we were summing up today were not a waste of time.

The "roundtable" is being concluded with concrete decisions, which allow one to believe that things will get better. Above all, we have obtained the right to have free trade unions operate legally in both the towns and in the countryside, including Rural Solidarity. We have obtained our Rural Solidarity union thanks to all our colleagues who fought for union freedoms for 7 years. We should particularly remember those who died for these freedoms. We owe a great deal to the Roman Catholic Church, which accompanied us with prayer, advice, and support. We sat down at the table knowing very well what has to be done to enable farmers to discharge their duty to feed the people. The agreements that we have worked out make it possible to nurture the hope that they will become an appropriate tool in the hands of the farmer. If we farmers begin to feel that we can run our country, then a better future for all of us will not just remain a dream. By campaigning for better working and living conditions in the countryside, farmers' trade unions will prevent discrimination against the countryside and its exploitation, practices which have had such a terrible impact on the Poles' standard of living. The gloomy past, with all its suffering and humiliation, the curse of collectivization, must never return and it cannot be replaced by other ways of coercing or exploiting the farmer. We want to believe that equality and the rule of law are here to stay forever. We see hope not in an alliance, but in solidarity with workers and with educated people, who will use their intellectual ability for our cause, for the Polish cause. We will show solidarity in treading this path together, a path that is to lead to full democratization and sovereignty. One can only really have one's heart in running things if one is free. The opposition has agreed to enter the Sejm. We farmers will also be putting forward our candidates, although not the entire Sejm, but barely 35 percent of its members will be elected democratically.

We want the voice of independent representatives to be heard in the Sejm once again after a period of more than 40 years. We hope that the agreement that we are signing here is not a temporary, tactical attempt at democracy. We also hope that our deputies in the Sejm will not share the fate that befell the Polish Peasant Party deputies and their leader Stanislaw Mikolajczyk in the 1940's.

We farmers consider rural and township self-government to be a very important issue. We want these bodies to be elected completely democratically and to really run the areas under their authority. This has not been the case so far. Only an unshakable sense of hope and an awareness of the legacy of those who feed and defend make it possible for us to wrestle with reality. The situation in the countryside is becoming very serious. Current economic conditions are threatening the basis of agricultural production and the existence of farming families. A wave of justified protest actions by farmers who have been pushed to the limit is sweeping across the country.

We hope that the rapid implementation of the Ustrzyk and Rzeszow agreements and those that are being signed at the "roundtable" will allow farmers to leave behind lines, worries, and anger, and return to their fields. We realize that the burden of responsibility for the further course of events weighs on the authorities, but it also weighs on the signatories of the agreements, which provide a last chance to resolve the current crisis. We have reached agreement—the rest will depend on what actually happens.

We are faced with the most serious threat of a collapse in agricultural production since the war and with an increasingly worse supply of foodstufs, which is extremely painful and shameful. That is not all. The countryside is becoming depopulated and is sliding into decline. Entire tracts of land along our borders are being abandoned by farmers and the cornerstone of the nation is endangered. At the same time, we want to and can restore the health of the Polish countryside and make it a place where modern work is carried out and where a dignified life in all its fullness can be led, in keeping with our best traditions and the achievements of today's Europe. The countryside not only means farming. It also means a certain way of life. The countryside means a neighborly community in which there is cooperation and culture.

We believe that we will not experience difficulties and obstacles in this work, and that all the doubts that exist will be resolved in accordance with reasons of state and the true interests of the entire people.

Nothing that will serve to benefit the countryside will be lost or wasted: Through the hard work of the farmer and by the sweat of his brow, it will be made to benefit all of society.

It is high time that agriculture was made the cornerstone of a sound economy—as the Holy Father preaches in the encyclical on human labor. That is how we understand our way of serving Poland, and we will be faithful with respect to our duty.

Miller Queried on Roundtable, Grassroots Opinion

AU0504143889 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 30 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Leszek Miller, PZPR Central Committee secretary, by Wojciech Krawczyk; date and place not given: "Just As Many Hopes As Fears"]

[Text] [Krawczyk] In addition to being co-chairman for the work of the "roundtable" subteam for youth affairs, you have been taking part in the recent Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] accountability conferences. During the conferences there was much talk about the historic meeting that is taking place in Warsaw. There was much discussion about the usefulness of the meeting, the proposals and positions expressed by individual sides and finally, about the plans for changes in public life and the effects that a "social contract" might have. It is surely a valuable experience to take part in a debate during which Poland's future is being sketched out and, at the same time, to be able to familiarize yourself on an ongoing basis with views of your party's rank-and-file membership on this event in which you are playing an important role. So what do PZPR members who are some distance away from Warsaw think about the "roundtable"? Does the session come as a surprise to them? Are they optimistic about change or do they fear it?

[Miller] During my meetings with party members I have never encountered the view that the "roundtable" came as a surprise to anyone. On the other hand, I have definitely established that the initiative has given rise to just as many hopes as fears. The hopes manifest themselves in, among other things, the view that Poles have a historic opportunity to create a strong proreform coalition that will be able—despite ideological or political differences among those elements comprising it—to institute far-reaching changes in the state, society, and the economy in so far as the sides that are now seated at the "roundtable" are willing to exercise a stabilizing influence on various groups and exercise self-restraint with respect to their political ambitions and demands of an economic and social character. However, as it is not possible to give a clear-cut answer with respect to the latter qualification, many party members have reservations and fears about whether a hasty and radical democratization of public life will not intensify divisions within society and centrifugal tendencies, and lead to anarchy and increased economic difficulties. There is some basis for these fears. There are things happening at the "roundtable" that do not represent a step forward. Short-time gains will have negative repercussions sooner or later, indexation being an example.

The opinions and thoughts that I have described would not be complete without some mention of their background. First and foremost, it is being pointed out that the "roundtable" is a consequence of earlier changes in party activity and its policy and attitude toward the active agents in public life, these changes having been initiated by the Ninth PZPR Congress. Thus, viewed from this angle, the "roundtable" provides an impetus to the acceleration of change. After the "roundtable," there will be no changes that will differ from those that were announced and initiated at the party's highest forum in 1981. Incidentally, I sometimes hear it said that the issues being dealt with at the "roundtable" are ones that we did not want to examine until now, or that we failed to notice them altogether. This is not true. We did notice them. However, there has to be a broad social consensus for these issues to be settled, a broader platform of social support than the one that we could have obtained until now.

[Krawczyk] At this point it seems pertinent to ask whether all party members will be able to endure the rate at which the changes will take place. Are they prepared to effectively defend the ideological, moral, and political reasons for socialism in Poland in a situation in which there is pluralism and competition?

[Miller] Competition with respect to concepts, programs, and activities can only strengthen the party and encourage greater activity in all areas of life. The absence of competition weakens us and makes it more difficult to, among other things, transform the PZPR into a political organization and to gather—using genuinely political methods—supporters and sympathizers around it. This is undoubtedly a difficult task, especially as party members cannot go about this as if it were a teacher-pupil relationship: The "beacon" issues instructions about what has to be done and how and those below will listen and obediently carry them out.

[Krawczyk] That PZPR members display courage in carrying out this task will undoubtedly also be important. One can conclude that courage will go up in value as much as common sense and vigor over the coming years.

[Miller] That is undoubtedly true, especially as—contrary to popular myth—we are not a particularly tolerant people, as is evidenced by, for example, the attitudes of many inhabitants of small towns and villages toward people who have different customs, religions, or ideological views. Besides, the situation is not much better in large places. Let us just consider the strikes at coal mines and in larger enterprises, where even large groups of employees who wanted to continue working were effectively terrorized by threats of violence or blackmail in the form of arguments relying on national or ideological symbolism and identity. It is hard to imagine that these kinds of things will not happen in the future. We must be prepared to defend our interests better and with greater determination.

[Krawczyk] One of the views that featured quite frequently on the list of fears that I drew up on the basis of reports on the accountability conferences was that eliminating the various obstacles on the road to democracy, the PZPR would eliminate itself and would become something of a political discussion, a discussion center of little importance. What do you think about this?

[Miller] Of course, I consider this idea of self-elimination a joke. In any case, I do not think that the party will become a club that is exclusively devoted to experiencing dazzling intellectual adventures. It must not only perceive and comment on reality, but change it at the same time through its actions, to be present wherever decisions are made—in representative bodies, in units of the state and economic administrations, and in social organizations.

A fundamental issue for every party is obtaining real influence on reality, and this is not accomplished by way of philosophical disputes. I do, of course, see a need to to set up left-wing or prosocialist political clubs. They are exceptionally necessary for us, if only to inspire a lively exchange and comparison of views and reflection on party ideology and programmatic activity as we approach the end of the century and a time of industrial and social revolution.

[Krawczyk] You said that to meet the challenges created by the new situation party members must become bolder and more active, they must be more willing to engage in debate and to defend their arguments. These are all qualities associated with youth. The PZPR does not, however, have that many young people among its members. They are more inclined to make up the clientele of Solidarity, the church, and independent clubs and associations.

[Miller] It is a fact that the PZPR is growing older, the average member's age being 46. Nevertheless, it is not always true that youth and the qualities that you mentioned go hand in hand. Older comrades tend to defend their position more stubbornly, they skillfully provide reasons for their choices, and give a rational justification for socialism in Poland. That is the first thing. Second, although I can see that there is no mass influx of young people into the PZPR taking place, I also see no evidence that young people constitute the main clientele of opposition groups, despite the fact that the contrary impression may be created by the vociferous activities of some groups of students and workers. I think that the attitude of most young people is one of waiting to see what will happen, and they often even display a conciliatory attitude. The question is which political force will be the more successful in convincing young people that it has the right program.

My own experience indicates—and I meet young people quite often—that young people are to a large extent indifferent toward politics, and that those who do reject us do so for the sake of being contrary, because it is fashionable, or because of views imposed from outside. Young people are generally more easily influenced by the views of those who speak to them directly and the most frequently, those that they have dealings with on an everyday basis. Television, video films, and satellite television will not provide young Poles with a substitute for the need to be directly involved in discussions about their future and the future of the fatherland. The most enduring ties are formed by those who make the effort to maintain frequent and direct contacts.

[Krawczyk] Is this why the doors of party committees have been opened to young people to signify openness in public life and the changes that are taking place in it?

[Miller] After my meeting with young people at the Central Committee's headquarters, a PZPR members wrote to me to say that "this is the right way to demystify party temples." Without going into whether these are the right words to use, the answer has to be that it definitely is. Besides, as we know, regional party organizations and echelons are launching similar initiatives. This is just the beginning of a road that will lead us toward seeing young people view the PZPR program and its activities favorably. Incidentally, I think that this provides an important lesson for older party members on how to debate and campaign, to take part in public life in accordance with new principles. In any case, the time of operating behind the closed doors of our offices is over once and for all.

PRON's Dobraczynski on Roundtable Talks

*LD1104092589 Warsaw PAP in English
0013 GMT 11 Apr 89*

[Text] Warsaw, April 10—The Presidium of the Executive Committee of the National Council of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON), chaired by Jan Dobraczynski, held today its first session following the conclusion of the roundtable debates.

"We welcomed with great satisfaction the successful ending of the debates, proceeding not without sharp clashes and controversies. The dialogue conducted on the platform that was much broader than ever, the search for convergent points and the agreement as to the issues of vital importance for Poland and Poles have grown from the idea that gave birth to PRON," the Presidium stated.

Miners Union Denies Press Report on Leaflets

*LD1104094389 Warsaw PAP in English
0011 GMT 11 Apr 89*

[Text] Warsaw, April 10—In connection with a statement by a representative of the government press office on the work of the roundtable team for economy and social policy, carried by the Polish press on April 3, PAP has received a telex which states that a charge on the false content of leaflets signed by the Federation of Miners' Unions is groundless. The telex was signed by the federation's chairman Rajmund Moric.

Asked to comment on those developments, Zbyslaw Rykowski, spokesman for the coalition-government side at the roundtable team for economy and social policy, confirmed that the leaflet addressed to miners, which had been issued by the information bulletin of the Federation of Miners' Unions and quoted at the team's session on April 2, had falsely presented the then settlements on mining.

Labor Minister Interviewed on Welfare Benefits

*LD1004220989 Warsaw Television Service
in Polish 1730 GMT 10 Apr 89*

[Interview with Minister of Labor and Social Policy Michal Czarski by unidentfied reporter in Warsaw on 10 April—recorded]

[Text] Today's government meeting has brought numerous important decisions and interesting information. Here is our report:

[Reporter] The Council of Ministers has met for the first time since the end of the roundtable deliberations. The convergence between what was set down by the sides in the agreement and the directions of reforms implemented by the government was emphasized. The procedure for implementing the roundtable decisions was accepted. Changes in welfare policy have already been accepted today. This is connected to the first decisions taken by the newly appointed minister for labor and social policy, Michal Czarski. Minister, what have you already succeeded in doing for people in the most difficult material situation?

[Czarski] Family benefits have changed, nursing allowances have changed. Speaking of changes, I am thinking, above all, about the increase in the money value of these benefits, since family allowances are increasing from a sum of 2,000 to 5,300 [currency not specified]; these allowances are becoming standardized, all are of the same sum, with the exception of those groups of people who have been receiving larger benefits than 5,300 up to now, because the situation is to remain the same there until the next adjustment when the necessity will arise to once again make these sums more realistic, in connection with inflation. The same goes for the second welfare benefits, namely nursing allowances. This also involves the standardization of the level of nursing allowances and an increase in the sum. Up to now, they have amounted to Z3,100; currently, sums of Z6,600 will be obligatory. For special groups, that is for children receiving an additional meat ration card, this sum is still to be raised by 50 percent, which means this sum will amount to Z9,900.

[Reporter] Please tell us when this money will reach the interested parties.

[Czarski] In April, since the decision is in force from 1 April this year.

[Reporter] And what next?

[Czarski] What next? These are only the first, albeit concrete solutions for an improvement and change in certain welfare benefits. However, in the near future, we anticipate further actions. I can even submit a certain declaration to pensioners and annuitants here. [Word indistinct] we anticipate further actions. I can even submit a certain declaration to pensioners and annuitants here. [Word indistinct] we anticipate a revalorization of benefits from July this year, some further operations will be continued next year, but general restructuring of welfare benefits will take place after 1990.

Polish UN Contingent Leaves for Namibia 9 Apr

*LD1004090889 Warsaw PAP in English
0818 GMT 10 Apr 89*

[Text] Warsaw, April 10—Over one hundred Polish soldiers left for Namibia last night as another group within the UNTAG (United Nations Transition Assistance Group) Polish contingent.

The group was commanded by Col Kazimierz Gilej who is also head of the Polish contingent.

Statement Welcomes Withdrawal From Cambodia

*LD1004224789 Warsaw PAP in English
2141 GMT 10 Apr 89*

[Text] Warsaw, April 10—Following is a statement conveyed to PAP by Poland's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Stefan Staniszewski:

The government of the Polish People's Republic welcomed with satisfaction the joint statement issued on April 5, 1989 by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea on a complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from the territory of Kampuchea by the end of September this year and on appointing an international organ of supervision and control.

Poland consistently comes out for solving regional conflicts by peaceful means, for detente and development of international cooperation. The initiative of the three Indochina states creates conditions for restoring peace so badly needed in Kampuchea and has a great significance for normalization of the situation in South-East Asia as a whole.

Poland, faithful to many year traditions of her participation in peaceful missions the world over, including Kampuchea in the years 1954-1969, declares her readiness to participate in an international commission controlling the settlement of the Kampuchean problem as soon as it is formed.

We express the conviction that the good will of the Indochina states and all sides concerned will make it possible to solve the Kampuchea problem by peaceful means, with respect for the Kampuchean nation's sovereign interests. This will also serve the interests of neighbouring states and the cause of peace in the region.

French Foreign Minister Dumas To Visit 17-18 Apr

*LD1004171189 Warsaw Domestic Service
in Polish 1600 GMT 10 Apr 89*

[Text] Roland Dumas, French minister of state and minister of foreign affairs, will pay an official visit to Poland 17-18 April at the invitation of Polish Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski.

Ungur, Andrei Meet U.S. Businessmen

AU1004173289 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1713 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES, 10/4/1984—Starting 10 April, Bucharest is the venue of the talks within the working meeting attended by executives of ministries and representatives of Romanian foreign trade enterprises, as well as a group of American businessmen made up of representatives of over fifty companies.

The proceedings of the meeting were opened by Ioan Ungur, minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation.

Taking the floor during the meeting, Stefan Andrei, deputy prime minister, conveyed the participants a message of salute on behalf of the Romanian Government.

Addresses were made by Robert Robertson, vice-president of "Occidental International" company, vice-president of "American Businesses for International Trade" (ABIT) organization, head of the group, and by Roger Kirk, the U.S. ambassador to Bucharest.

The proceedings of the meeting continue.

Pakistan-Romania Friendship Association Set Up

AU0704173289 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1547 GMT 7 Apr 89

["Creation of Pakistan-Romania Friendship Association"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Islamabad AGERPRES, 7/4/1989—A festive ceremony was held in Islamabad when Pakistan-Romania Friendship Association was created.

In his address on the occasion, the governor of Sind Province, Qadeeruddin Ahmad, highlighted the role of summit meetings and the direct contribution of Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu and of Mrs Elena Ceausescu to the development of links of friendship between the two countries during the visits the distinguished messengers of the Romanian people paid to Pakistan, which all concluded with significant measures aimed at boosting bilateral relations.

The speaker expressed feelings of gratitude to the Romanian president for his initiatives for intensified Romanian-Pakistani links of collaboration. He expressed satisfaction at Romania's support to the economic development of Pakistan, which materialized in the building of important industrial units.

In his turn, the president of Pakistan-Romania Friendship Association, Ahsan Mukhtar Zuberi, highlighted the productive collaboration between the two countries in international relations, which is favoured by their identical or very close views on most of the issues of the contemporary world.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, by numerous businessmen and personalities of the Pakistani political and cultural life.

Turkish Military Delegation's Visit Reviewed

AU0804165089 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 89

["Visit by Turkish Military Delegation"—AGERPRES headlines]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 8/4/1989—Over April 2-8 a group of staff and students of the military academies of Turkey paid a visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The guests were received by the minister of national defence and saw round military learning institutions, economic, cultural and social units, as well as places of tourist interest in Bucharest and in the counties of Arges and Sibiu.

Cuban Parliament Head on Romania Talks, Ties

AU0304114889 Bucharest LUMEA in Romanian No 13, 30 Mar p 6

[Report on interview with Severo Aguirre del Cristo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government of the Republic of Cuba, by Alin Genescu in Bucharest: "We Value Romania's Contribution to Peace Efforts"; date not given]

[Text] A Cuban parliamentary delegation led by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, visited our country recently.

A high point of this visit was the reception of the Cuban parliamentarians by President Nicolae Ceausescu. On this occasion, the sides discussed the stage of bilateral relations and certain problems of mutual interest to the two friendly countries.

During our reception by President Nicolae Ceausescu—Severo Aquirre del Cristo said at the beginning of the interview—we extended to the Romanian head of state greetings and warm wishes from Comrade Fidel Castro. Likewise, we emphasized the relations of friendship and cooperation between Romania and Cuba and tackled a number of problems of mutual interest concerning various aspects of international life.

The talk we conducted with President Nicolae Ceausescu was very important for our delegation. We had an opportunity to become acquainted with many achievements of socialist construction in Romania. In turn, we presented the targets of the socialist construction process in Cuba. Our parties, states, parliaments, and peoples are firmly engaged in building the socialist society in the two countries. Likewise, regarding the stage of bilateral relations, both sides noted that there are opportunities for further developing the traditional Romanian-Cuban relations, particularly in the economic, scientific-technical, and other spheres of activity.

[Genescu] Following the contacts in Bucharest, what prospects do you see for strengthening cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries? What are, in your opinion, the international problems where our positions coincide?

[Aguirre del Cristo] We believe that the visit was very fruitful because it occasioned an exchange of opinions and experience between our two legislative forums: The National Assembly of the People's Government of Cuba and the Grand National Assembly of Romania. Our parliaments maintain very close and constructive relations. Both legislative forums belong to the Interparliamentary Union. Within the framework of this very large organization—where all kinds of trends are apparent, but where the main orientation is still toward cooperation for a world of peace—our two parliaments have always worked for reaching increasingly better agreements and for rejecting those proposals that run counter to the goal of defending peace or that aim at perpetuating colonialism and expanding neocolonialism in various parts of the world. In this respect, the Romanian and Cuban parliamentarians are closely cooperating, together with parliamentarians from other socialist countries, from Latin America and Africa, and from other countries struggling to promote their own development and defend their national independence, countries that belong to the Nonalignment Movement.

Generally speaking, we believe that parliamentarians and parliaments have specific tasks and duties in the struggle to defend peace, halt the arms race, promote world detente, and avoid war. In our opinion, disarmament is a particular sphere where parliaments can play an important role. In this respect, the parliaments can influence the decisions of their government, by refusing, for instance, to endorse new credits for armaments.

In Bucharest we also discussed important aspects of the international situation. We expressed our concern over ensuring peace on the planet, by setting out from the consideration that the peace we want should be of equal benefit to everybody, without leaving out any single nation. Peace should be accompanied by effective steps that can facilitate the tackling of socioeconomic problems facing the developing countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. One should stop investing huge amounts of money in armaments. The resources thus freed could be used to stimulate the progress of the developing countries. Without development, one cannot talk of peace; without development, one cannot talk about the national independence of nations. Peace and development cannot be mere formal truths; they must be real, and each citizen from the farthest corner of the earth should be able to benefit from them. In these matters, we noted a great similarity of views between our two parliaments—both during the talks conducted in Bucharest and particularly at the meeting with President Nicolae Ceausescu. Cuba and Romania are promoting the same kind of constructive positions, which gives us the opportunity to unite our efforts in the struggle to reach these targets.

As far as we are concerned, we value Romania's contribution to peace efforts. In the international forums, Cuba and Romania basically maintain the same positions on the need to reduce arms in general and to reduce and eliminate nuclear arms in particular, as well as other mass extermination weapons, such as biological and chemical weapons; we also advocate a reduction in conventional arms. This would not only release huge financial resources, but also the manpower employed in the armaments industry, which manufactures the instruments of death. These people should join those engaged in building the instruments of peace. Only by eliminating these weapons will mankind be able to reach the aforementioned goals. In this respect, Romania and Cuba are sharing common positions. We know that this target cannot be achieved immediately. But both our countries are determined to work, together with other nations, to attain the noble ideals of mankind.

[Genescu] What role can be played, in this respect, by the small and medium-sized nations and by the developing and nonaligned countries?

[Aguirre del Cristo] Indeed, in order to achieve peace and understanding in the world, it is not enough to have the contribution of the strong states, but also that of the small and medium-sized countries and of the nonaligned countries. These nations are entitled to peace, as they are also entitled to independence and a higher standard of living, by eliminating the overwhelming poverty in which they live today. The struggle in the countries of the so-called "Third World," of the nonaligned countries, has very specific features and is different from the situation in the more developed countries. For the former countries, the elimination of underdevelopment is a basic feature and a part of the very struggle for peace. For these countries, the elimination of economic dependence and other kinds of dependencies is also a form of the struggle for peace.

[Genescu] Do you also include in this struggle the need to eliminate the foreign debt and build a new international economic order?

[Aguirre del Cristo] The foreign debt must be eliminated because it is a great burden for all peoples. Latin America alone has a foreign debt of more than $400 billion; most of what Latin America currently produces goes to repay the interest on this debt and very little is left for its own development and domestic growth. It is necessary to end the present situation of inequitable exchanges and of low prices for raw materials exported by the developing countries. It is necessary to establish a new international economic order, which can contribute to building peace. True peace should encompass all these aspects.

In conclusion, on behalf of our delegation, I would like to say that we have gained pleasant impressions from this visit, during which we became better acquainted with the Romanian people and their achievements. We consider the Romanian people a very hardworking people, in love with the work they are performing; this is a very important thing, as it proves that the people are a conscious molder of their own development. We extend to all Romanians cordial greetings and best sentiments from all those who were part of this Cuban delegation.

Leaders' Appearances 1-7 April

AU0804190889

[Editorial Report] Romanian media report the following public appearances of Romanian leaders during the 1-7 April period (source of each report given in parentheses):

Ion Dinca, Political Executive Committee (PEC) member and first deputy prime minister of Romania, and Ion Sirbu, secretary of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee, attended a Hungarian Embassy reception in Bucharest on 3 April. (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1750 GMT 3 Apr 89)

Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general, received Marjan Orozen, president of the Council of Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia, in Bucharest on 3 April. (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1609 GMT 3 Apr 89) On 4 April, Ceausescu received Warsaw Pact generals, P.G. Lushev and V.N. Lobov, (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1433 GMT 4 Apr 89) and he chaired a PEC meeting in Bucharest on 7 April. (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1558 GMT 7 Apr 89)

Gheorghe David, PEC candidate member and minister of agriculture, met with heads of an international beekeeping organization, in Bucharest on 3 April. (Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 4 Apr 89 p 3)

Miu Dobrescu, PEC member and chairman of the General Union of Romanian Trade Unions, met with a SFRY Trade Union delegation in Bucharest on 4 April. (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1003 GMT 4 Apr 89)

Ludovic Fazekas, deputy prime minister of Romania, met with the Mongolian economy minister in Bucharest on 3 April. (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1800 GMT 3 Apr 89) and he received a Vietnamese planning official in Bucharest on 4 April. (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1622 GMT 4 Apr 89)

Ion Stoian, candidate member of the Political Executive Committee (PEC) and secretary of the RCP Central Committee, met with Moroccan party leader, Ali Yata, and other officials in Rabat on 3 April. (Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1606 GMT 3 Apr 89)

Slovene Reservists To Serve in Kosovo

AU1104123389 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 6 Apr 89 p 20

[Unattributed report: "Unit from Slovenia in Kosovo"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 5 Apr—The Federal Secretariat for National Defense has decided (and according to the data available, this decision was within its powers) that a unit of the Zagreb Military Region will participate in military exercises and other regular activities carried out by the Yugoslav People's Army in Kosovo in the coming days.

For this reason, some military reservists were also called up in Slovenia, chiefly from the Ljubljana and Vrhnika communes. The men gathered today in Vrhnika, where they were told of their destination. They are supposed to leave for Kosovo on Friday [7 April]. This is the same unit that participated in the Armor 89 exercise in Notranjska [region of Slovenia]in March. It is of course impossible to predict how long the unit will stay in Kosovo, but it is presumed that its absence will be short. For the time being, this should be the only unit from Slovenia called upon to serve in Kosovo.

Youth Questions Call-Up

AU1104123589 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 8 Apr 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Republican Conference of the Socialist Youth Federation of Slovenia: Why Have Reservists Gone for Exercises in Kosovo?"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 7 Apr—A number of people approached the Republican Conference of the Socialist Youth Federation of Slovenia [RCSYFS] yesterday and today, wanting to know more about the call-up of military reservists, who were called up on Tuesday and supposedly went to Kosovo. The reservists, their relatives, and friends are obviously justified in being concerned at the call-up of a considerable number of military reservists from Slovenia, a statement issued by the RCSYFS says.

The RCSYFS has tried to obtain additional information in connection with the call-up from respective institutions in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, but it has not been able to obtain any suitable explanations.

Whereas we understand the justified concern of the public, we appeal to all the respective institutions in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, and especially the Republican Secretariat for National Defense of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia:

1. to state, on what basis and why the military reservists from Slovenia were called up;

2. to inform the relatives of those called up about the length of the supposed military exercise;

3. to inform the relatives of those called up where they are and how they can get in touch with them (by letter, telephone, or visit);

4. to enable those called up to communicate with their relatives at once;

5. to inform the public as fully as possible and regularly about the course of the military exercise;

6. to enable RCSYFS representatives to visit the military reservists who have been called up.

We are aware that the republican secretary is not empowered to answer all the questions, but we expect that it will do everything in its power, in keeping with its position, to obtain suitable replies to the questions and that all the requests will be favorably met.

Similar questions and objections were expressed by the Action Committee to Protect the Rights of Soldiers and by the leaderships of the Slovene Democratic Alliance and the Social Democratic Alliance of Slovenia.

Presidency Session Addresses Kosovo Issue

LD1004182689 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1627 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—A session of the SFRY Presidency was held in Belgrade today. It was also attended by the presidents of the Presidencies of the republics and autonomous provinces and the top officials of certain federal organs. The session, presided over by President Raif Dizdarevic, considered the political and security situation in the country and its effect on the international position of Yugoslavia.

According to a statement, it was stressed that Kosovo is a Yugoslav problem, and that only with the unity of all our nations and nationalities, of all the republics and autonomous provinces, and the organs and institutions of the system, is it possible to resolve it. It was also pointed out that in addition to the results achieved with the implementation of the special measures of the SFRY Presidency aimed at the most rapid normalization possible of the situation in this province, even broader political action must be waged in order to have an effect in the places where people live and work—in work collectives, schools, and local communities.

The united stance was expressed that throughout the country, the focus for efforts should be the implementation of measures being undertaken for the realization of economic reform, because this is of decisive importance for the overall situation in Yugoslavia. Without such a commitment and the improvement of the overall internal situation, the international, and particularly the economic, position of our country will be threatened.

Koljgeci Resigns as Kosovo President

AU1004201789 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 6 Apr 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Remzi Koljgeci Tendered Resignation"]

[Text] Pristina 5, Apr—Remzi Koljgeci, president of the Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo, has resigned. Until the election of a new president, which is already under way, Bajram Seljani will be acting president of the Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo.

As announced, today the Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo discussed the question of collective and individual accountability of the Presidency and its members for the very complicated political and security situation in the province.

The Presidency concluded that it itself was partly accountable for this situation, and that during the course of its work, it will establish the accountability of all of its members individually.

Discussing and analyzing a report on the implementation of the SFRY Presidency's special measures in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo, the Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo concluded that the measures are basically being implemented properly and that their implementation has had a noticeable effect on the normalization of the total political and security situation in the province.

It was stated that the situation in the economy and social activities is rapidly normalizing, and that the process of production in all Kosovo mines is proceeding better than it in the previous period. The Presidency stressed that despite this normalization, the political and security situation in the province is still very grave and complicated. The situation continues to be complex because of various hostile disinformation about the alleged abuse and incorrect conduct of some members of the security service, particularly during the curfew. Particularly worrisome are the reports of five major fires.

The Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo concluded that the strict implementation of the SFRY Presidency's special measures should be resolutely continued, and energetic and firm measures against all those who disrespect them should be applied. The ideopolitical work as well as political and work differentiation in all communities should be continued, particularly among the organs of authority. It was recommended to appropriate organs of the Executive Council of the Kosovo Assembly that an assessment of the political and security situation in all spheres of life and work be made as soon as possible, and in view of this assessment, that appropriate measures be recommended.

Abrasi Resigns From Kosovo SAWP, LC

LD1004142989 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1140 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Pristina, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Bahtije Abrasi, member of the Presidium of the Kosovo Socialist Alliance of Working People [SAWP] Provincial Conference and president of the social activity of women, tendered her written resignation at today's session of the Presidium of the Kosovo SAWP Provincial Committee, saying that she irrevocably resigns from these functions and from membership of the League of Communists [LC] provincial conference. Bahtije Abrasi's resignation was initiated by the Presidium of the Kosovo SAWP Provincial Presidium, while she says in her short explanation: Because of the situation in her family, she can no longer objectively carry out this functions But she remains loyal to the LCY [League of Communists of Yugoslavia] policy, a statement of the information service of the Kosovo SAWP Provincial Conference says.

Bahtije Abrasi is the wife of Aziz Abrasi, the former chairman of the management board of Trepca, who was detained under suspicion of committing a counterrevolutionary act and threatening the social order of the SFRY.

Kosovo Schools Reopen; No 'Excesses' Reported

LD1004164789 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1350 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Pristina, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Lessons in primary schools and at the faculties in Kosovo resumed successfully today after a 2-week break. Judging by the reports issued by the Provincial Committee for Education, Science and Culture of Kosovo, lessons are held normally and no interethnic excesses have been recorded.

The evaluation is that about 350,000 youngsters, over 90 percent, are sitting behind the school desks again. Most primary school absences have been noted in the primary schools in Zur, where recently there has been a fierce clash between Albanian separatists and members of security organs. There has also been a poor pupil response in the Suva Reka schools.

The teachers in all primary schools had to spend the first lessons explaining the recent stormy events and unmasking the objectives of the recent demonstrations by Albanian nationalists.

The situation is similar in the schools of higher learning and at the faculties in the province. According to Dr Muhamet Bicaj, pro-rector of Pristina University, lectures at all 13 faculties and 7 schools of higher learning also started off well. [passage omitted] In the schools of higher learning and at the faculties, lectures began with students being briefed on the current political situation and on their responsibilities at this complex political juncture.

Disciplinary Charges Brought Against Miners

LD1004203889 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1431 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Pristina, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—The political and economic situation at the Kisnica and Novo Brdo mines and flotation work organization was serious and difficult even before the strikes by workers of Albanian nationality, and recent events have brought this collective to the brink of ruin. The sociopolitical organizations in the mine were completely paralyzed, and the LC [League of Communists] could do nothing despite the activities it undertook. This was stated today at a meeting of the Presidium of the LC action conference of the collective. For this reason, Osman Haziri, president of the Presidium of the conference, resigned from this post and also submitted his resignation from the Presidium, which the conference has to decide upon.

Today a working group was formed with the task of establishing individual and collective responsibility for the entire party Presidium and to draw up a realistic analysis of everything which has occurred in recent months at the Kisnica and Novo Brdo mines.

At the collective, 520 charges have been brought against workers who refused to carry out their work orders and 70 miners have been suspended from work. In February alone, more than 111,000 working hours were lost, and production has still not started in the Novo Brdo pit due to negligence and certain technical factors, it was stated. [passage omitted]

Slovene Assembly Presents Stances on Crisis

AU1004183389 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 6 Apr 89 p 2

["Stances" adopted by the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia on 30 March: "Slovene Assembly on Current Sociopolitical Situation in the Republic and in Yugoslavia: No Compromise About the Reforms"]

[Text] The Assembly of the Socialist Republic [SR] of Slovenia, as the highest organ of authority and social self-management of the Slovene people and citizens of the SR of Slovenia, aware of its full responsibility to the Slovene people and citizens of Slovenia for the future development of democratic social relations, the rights and freedoms of every citizen, the rights of the Slovene people, and the development of equal relations in the Yugoslav federation; at a joint session of all its chambers on 30 March 1989, convened to discuss current sociopolitical relations in the SR of Slovenia and the SFRY and the implementation of the Kosovo program, on the basis of the opening speeches by Stane Dolanc, vice president of the SFRY Presidency; by Janez Stanovnik, president of the Presidency of the SR of Slovenia; and by Joze Knez, vice president of the Assembly of the SR of Slovenia; and on the basis of delegates' discussion, adopted the following

Stances:

1. The present model for implementing socialism is experiencing a crisis. In Yugoslavia and Slovenia, we have already agreed on the further direction of the implementation of a democratic social, economic, and political renewal. We do not accept that the reform efforts should stop or be interrupted, because this would mean that we reject the only prospect for our joint development. There can be no compromise on this point.

The Assembly of the SR of Slovenia, as well as all state organs and representatives of the SR of Slovenia, must resolutely and persistently enhance and develop the SR of Slovenia as a state of the Slovene people and citizens of Slovenia, as well as the SFRY, as an equal community of the peoples and nationalities in which all important social problems, and especially those that are a condition for the existence and development of the individual nature of the peoples and their sovereignty, will be solved in a democratic way within the framework of mutual agreements on an equal footing, with full respect for the interests of every people and nationality on the basis of the consent of their legitimate and legally elected organs. Within their activities, they must strive for a consistent respect for all the rights and freedoms of man and citizen; for a responsible functioning of all the institutions of the system explicitly in accordance with their powers set by the Constitution and the laws; for personal responsibility of all elected representatives and organs; and for a law-abiding state. On this basis, one should develop democratic political pluralism in a system of social decisionmaking.

The Assembly of the SR of Slovenia sees the way out of the social crisis in the SFRY, not through a forced equalization, but by introducing pluralism in the Slovene and Yugoslav communities, through comprehensively developing the peoples and nationalities, and in a fully affirming citizenry.

2. We must again pay equal attention to economic reform, just as we are paying to the relations in the federation and the reform of the political system. We support the program of the new Federal Executive Council. With our activities, we will help it to realize its plans. In this respect, we expect all the organs in the socialist republics and in the socialist autonomous provinces, and we demand all the federal organs to do their best and to persistently implement the tasks of the economic reform and to generate income, and to create the conditions for us to join as an equal the new economic relations in Europe and in the world, so that we can gain a greater share of the international division of labor. This should be our paramount care and greatest responsibility. We will achieve this if economic laws and the interests of entrepreneurship are the foundation of our business operations in the economy in general. Therefore, we

consider it an unconstitutional act if business relations are broken for political reasons, for this is in opposition to a unified Yugoslav market and constitutes crude resistance to reform efforts.

3. The present policy in Kosovo has not yielded the expected results. There can be no doubt about that, regardless of whether the reasons lie in its directives or in its implementation. In the long run, the greatest responsibility for the relations in Kosovo is borne by the people of Kosovo, especially the Albanians as the majority people in the Socialist Autonomous Republic of Kosovo, and the Serbian people as the majority people in the SR of Serbia, and all the working people and citizens. The implementation of the principle of a law-abiding state in that province and the implementation of equality and concord among the Albanians, Serbs, Montenegrins, and all other peoples and nationalities in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo should be our common worry. This is the only way to isolate the great Albanian separatist nationalists and prevent the spreading of Serbian and Montenegrin nationalism. We have to try our best to help put an end to the emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo under political pressure. In the long run, the relations in Kosovo may be solved only through the mutual endeavor and efforts of the people who live there, and with democratic means and with an equal respect for human rights and the rights of every man and citizen in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo, regardless of his ethnic affiliation.

Unsuitable political activities have contributed to a situation in which the SFRY Presidency adopted the decision to introduce special measures in Kosovo. We have always been against the logic of imposing emergency relations and a state of emergency.

It is now our prime objective to remove as soon as possible, with the eration of all responsible organs and organizations, the reasons that have led to the introduction of special measures and the state of emergency, so that life in Kosovo may be lived through the activities of all the people, the activities of legal institutions, and in a democratic atmosphere. Only in this way will it be possible to determine the responsibility of all the peoples and nationalities in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo, as well as to realize a life common to the SR of Serbia and the SFRY. We therefore appeal to all the citizens in Kosovo to try in this way, and not through violence, to prevent the loss of precious life.

We will endure in carrying out the tasks and duties which we have undertaken in Slovenia in order to help realize the program for Kosovo. However, the present relations have imposed a significant burden on the success of this program. Therefore, we in the SFRY Assembly must analyze endeavors that have been made in the SR of Serbia, in view of its extended constitutional powers, and establish what kind of direct social activities are needed, so that the long-term aims of the program for Kosovo can be achieved and positive results produced. We must reexamine and supplement this program. We must evaluate with full responsibility the aims, importance, and methods of this program, because we, too, are responsible for its implementation.

4. The Slovene Assembly has acquainted itself with the introductory speech of Stane Dolanc, member of the SFRY Presidency from Slovenia, and with his additional explanation.

So far, the citizens of the SR of Slovenia have not been sufficiently, promptly, or fully informed about the authoritative reasons behind the SFRY Assembly's introduction of special measures. The SFRY Presidency should inform our public more about the assessments that made it adopt the decision on the special measures, assessments that were the basis for briefing the SFRY Assembly.

We need to be more objectively informed about these reasons, just as the speech of Comrade Lazar Mojsov, member of the SFRY Presidency, needs to be published in full. We propose to the SFRY Presidency to at least do that now.

The Slovene Assembly believes:

—that the SFRY Presidency should bear responsibility for the correct and objective evaluation of the reasons for the introduction of special measures as well as for the constitutional and legal application of such an act;

—that giving objective, essential, and direct information about the situation following the introduction of the special measures is an important precondition for joint activities on removing the reasons for the continuation of these emergency measures as soon as possible;

—that because of numerous unclear facts, it is necessary for the responsible organs to study how to bring the introduction of the emergency measures into line with the Constitution and laws, and to establish what the powers of the SFRY Presidency and what the role and duties of the organs in the socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces are.

—The SFRY Assembly and the SFRY Presidency must equally and resolutely condemn every attempt to destroy the territorial integrity of the country as well as the attempts to transform the federation of sovereign and equal peoples into the federation of majoritarian peoples and nationalities.

5. The Slovene Assembly categorically rejects the accusations, objections, and imputations concerning the situation in the republic and its attitudes toward the SFRY. There is no counterrevolution in Slovenia; we are not supporting irredentists in Kosovo; we do not oppose constitutional changes in the SR of Serbia in accordance with the amendments to the SFRY Constitution, nor the majority will of the Serbian people and all other peoples

and nationalities that live in the SR of Serbia and its socialist autonomous provinces. In Slovenia, there is no organized work to undermine the constitutionally defined role of the Yugoslav People's Army or the federal organization of the SFRY; the demands for a pluralistic society are not some kind of silent acceptance of the establishment of a multiparty system, a system that would be in contradiction with the constitutional provisions on the rights of and freedoms of people and citizens.

6. The Yugoslav People's Army is our joint defense force. We are all jointly responsible for preserving its constitutional role and duties. Therefore, we must—and want to critically, openly, and creatively—discuss the development of all people's defense in the competent institutions of the system; we do, however, reject untruths and insulting information and other allegations which certain individuals are spreading in Slovenia.

We reject the report of the Federal Executive Council, the "Essence, Causes, and Assessments of Attacks on the Concept of All People's Defense and the Yugoslav People's Army in Particular," adopted by the Federal Executive Council at its session of 14 March 1989. We propose that this issue not be discussed in the SFRY Assembly. On the other hand, we will commit appropriate organs in the SR of Slovenia to prepare their assessment and to offer it as a topic for discussion in the SFRY Assembly.

7. We do not have anything to add to or take away from the joint statement. The statement made in Cankar Hall was endorsed by us and was signed by a large number of citizens of Slovenia.

8. When it comes to untruths, reproaches, and malicious imputations, we do not consider it necessary to justify ourselves. We do not accept them in Slovenia or anywhere else, because they are a method of hindering a just dialogue, cooperation, and common existence. We categorically reject anybody's right to impose such methods of political activities on others, or anybody's attempts to destabilize political and security relations in the SR of Slovenia or anywhere else with such methods or anywhere else. We have been continually trying to prove that we want to establish cooperation on an equal footing; to hold a creative and well-argued dialogue, a democratic discussion on all questions concerning our work, life, mutual relations, and on a future development that will respect differences and objective activities, that will accept different views and opinions that exist in different socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces, as well as the diversity of stands and proposals. Only a democratic synthesis of these diversities, only consensus among the equal and sovereign peoples, can be the foundation for a substantive and revived meaning of our common existence and relations which we must achieve and realize through the economic and political reforms and work on the new SFRY Constitution.

9. The economic and social crisis, especially the current political relations in Yugoslavia, warn that we in Slovenia are also vulnerable when it comes to the aggravation in the economic and political situation. Therefore, in accordance with these stands, the Slovene Assembly binds all its members and recommends to all economic chambers in Slovenia, to all cultural communities, the Slovene Writers Association, self-managing interest communities, sociopolitical organizations, and citizens' associations, as well as the public information media and their social organizations, and all working people and citizens and their sociopolitical organizations to:

—work on strengthening the role, authority, and responsibility of the lawfully elected organs of the SR of Slovenia and their representatives in the SFRY organs;

—insure that all questions concerning work, life, and the development of the SR of Slovenia are carried out and resolved through the competent organs, through democratic procedures, in accordance with the Constitution and laws, by taking into account material possibilities, and that they are carried out with full responsibility and care for a balanced development and equal status of all working people and citizens, associated labor organizations, and all economic and social entities without unprincipled or biased demands, pressure, or threats;

—work in such a way that all questions concerning the development of the economic and political system are discussed patiently, in a well-argued manner, and democratically, with more politeness and with more trust in each other, with less passion and ultimatum-like demands, with more efforts to find common solutions, with greater respect for views and opinions in other socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces, and with a well-supported presentation of our proposals to the Yugoslav public and the federal organs, for the purpose of finding people who agree with our ideas and suggestions, without malicious provocations and expectations that it is possible to solve all questions and resolve them in accordance with the interests and views of individuals or groups of individuals without respecting the will of the majority of the people.

—support all forms of political, economic, cultural, scientific, informational, and educational cooperation, as well as cooperation in the sphere of physical education and all other forms of cooperation with other organs and organizations in other socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces, especially between twin communes from other socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces, and guarantee during this cooperation the initiation and conduct of a patient and well-argued dialogue, strengthen mutual trust, respect, and understanding, and overcome the atmosphere of mutual accusations and suspicions.

10. In carrying out these stands, the particular responsibility will be borne by the delegation of the Slovene Assembly in the Chamber of Republics and Provinces

and the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly. The Slovene Assembly will extend all of its support to their work.

11. The Slovene Assembly appeals to all the assemblies of all other socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces, as well as to the SFRY Assembly, to inform their delegates and the public about these stands and to do their best to ensure that an atmosphere of mutual trust is created and that all attempts are made to carry out the economic and social reform.

The Slovene Assembly will act consistently, in accordance with its responsibilities and duties and in the interest of developing relations in the SR of Slovenia and SFRY.

[Signed] President Miran Potrc

Bosnian Assembly Promulgates Amendments

AU1104092689 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] At a joint session of all three chambers of the Bosnian Assembly, the delegates promulgated the amendments to the Constitution of this republic.

More than 1 million people took part in a public debate on constitutional amendments, which confirms the importance of the document adopted today.

At the same session, prior to the election of the Bosnian member of the SFRY Presidency, delegate Vlasa Joksimovic demanded that an approval be sought from the appropriate organs so that the public can be informed about the reasons why Nenad Kecmanovic stepped down as a candidate. Vlasa Joksimovic explained this demand by saying: If this continues to be veiled in secrecy, I am afraid that there will be more and more public speculation as well as justified demands for the truth.

The president of the Assembly, Zlatan Karavdic, replied that the delegates will discuss this issue during a debate on the election of a member of the SFRY Presidency from this republic.

Report on Kecmanovic's Nomination 'State Secret'

AU1104102089 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The delegates of the Bosnia Assembly will have to vote again because neither of the two candidates standing for membership to the SFRY Presidency from Bosnia received the sufficient number of votes. There were 255 delegates in the Assembly, who all voted. Milan Skoro received 129 votes and Stevo Mirjanic 34 votes, while 92 ballots were not valid.

Prior to this, at the closed part of the session of the Bosnia Assembly, the delegates discussed a report on the nomination of Nenad Kecmanovic as a member of the SFRY Presidency from Bosnia-Hercegovina. It was stated that the report is a state secret.

Bosnia LC Discusses Multiparty System

LD1004183289 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1330 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—The SAWP [Socialist Alliance of Working People] must finally create real scope for the manifestation of political pluralism. This was stated today at a session of the Bosnia-Hercegovina LC [League of Communists] Central Committee Presidium. The session discussed self-managing political pluralism and made the basic statement that it is an undoubted democratic value and an expression of the achievement of the rights and freedoms of man. In his introductory speech, Bogic Bogicevic made clear that this cannot be reduced to a multiparty system because only in socialist self-management does it have a historical chance. Speaking about the appearance of ideas about party pluralism and its concrete manifestations in certain parts of the country, he added that this is an expression of the reaction to the crisis in society and in the LC. Assessing that political pluralism is not our future, but rather in our present, he advocated a manner of organizing the SAWP which would enable the manifestation of numerous organized political stances and views based on a socialist self-managing commitment and the basic values of our society.

In discussions, the orientation was displayed to the effect that we need political pluralism, but that its content should be carefully looked at, something which is indicated by the numerous committees and sections whose programs demand nothing other than a multiparty system, even when it is a case of those who wish to pursue this activity through the SAWP. At the same time, it was noted that the growth of various political orientations to a great extent depends on the adequate reform of the LC which awaits us in the coming period. [passage omitted]

Dizdarevic To Pay Official Visit to CSSR

LD1004222189 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2139 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Belgrade, April 10 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav State Presidency Raif Dizdarevic will pay an official and friendly visit to Czechoslovakia from April 12 through 14, at the invitation of Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak.

The Dizdarevic-Husak talks will mark a continuation of the top-level dialogue between the countries on topical questions of bilateral cooperation and international relations.

Relations between Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia are developing successfully in all fields and there are no questions outstanding to hinder their further promotion.

Both sides attach great importance to the promotion of economic cooperation. Yugoslav-Czechoslovak trade amounts to over 1.4 billion dollars, with commodity and invisible trade under long-term arrangements and industrial cooperation playing a significant part.

Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia have signed a long-term economic and scientific-technical cooperation programme until the year 2000 and negotiations on new co-production projects are underway within the programme.

DPRK Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD1004163989 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1420 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Belgrade, April 10 (TANJUG)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Yong-nam arrived here Monday on a three-day official visit to Yugoslavia.

Nam and his host, Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar, will start talks this afternoon, focusing on preparations for the ninth nonaligned summit in Belgrade next September. Bilateral relations, especially economic cooperation, will also be discussed.

Holds Talks With Loncar

LD1004223989 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2015 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar and his colleague from the DPRK, Kim Yong-Nam, this evening had 2 hours of talks in Belgrade, which were described by the Yugoslav delegation as exceptionally "open, sincere, and friendly." When one takes into account the fact that, besides the development of relations between the two countries and the preparations for the ninth nonaligned summit, one of the main subjects was connected with views on South Korea, then the description cited of the atmosphere which characterized the ministerial meeting gains even more significance.

The two sides stressed that for more than four decades, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the SFRY and the DPRK, firm friendship has been built, as well as good political understanding and successful cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral levels, above all in the framework of nonalignment. Kim Yong-nam made use of the opportunity to invite the federal secretary for foreign affairs to visit Pyongyang (which was accepted with pleasure), and paid tribute to Yugoslavia as one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement and a consistent fighter and protector of the policy and philosophy of nonalignment. He said that the second-time allocation of the role of host of the summit to Belgrade represented the most recent confirmation of the standing and importance of the SFRY among the nonaligned countries.

Budimir Loncar also pointed out the importance of strengthening mutual relations between the two countries. He noted that in its time, Yugoslavia had been guided by principled motives when it recognized the DPRK and supported its acceptance into the Nonaligned Movement. In fact, the SFRY believes in peaceful coexistence and cooperation between countries and peoples, regardless of their sociopolitical systems, because if it had bowed to ideological premises when choosing its partners, it would have significantly less than it has now. Loncar stressed that every country has the right and the freedom to establish and develop relations with other countries.

In this context, the federal secretary for foreign affairs reiterated Yugoslavia's principled and constant support for the DPRK's initiative for a peaceful unification of Korea. Explaining Yugoslavia's thinking on a global scale, Budimir Loncar briefed Kim Yong-nam about the prospects for opening up processes and contacts designed to normalize relations between Yugoslavia and South Korea, because Yugoslavia's foreign policy is based on the view that coexistence in international relations is the only way of improving world trends, extinguishing the hotbeds of crisis, and resolving existing problems successfully. The vice-chairman of the Administrative Council and the DPRK's foreign minister spoke about the issue of Korea's unification. He said that Seoul is trying to expand cooperation with socialist and nonaligned countries in order to perpetuate the division of Korea. He said he respected the SFRY's support for peaceful unification and Belgrade's activities aimed at reiterating that support. However, he expressed concern about the way in which a section of the Yugoslav press is favoring the recognition of South Korea and its membership in the Nonaligned Movement. In this connection, Loncar replied that the way the Yugoslav press wrote about individual countries reflected the mood of the Yugoslav public, and that the press was free to voice its own stand.

Budimir Loncar spoke in greater detail about the preparations for the September summit. Reference was made to the efforts to formulate the Nonaligned Movement's priority tasks and to the summit's agenda, as well as to the most important meeting of the nonaligned countries to precede the summit—the ministerial conference in Harare.

The two ministers agreed that the Nonaligned Movement's contribution to general positive trends in international relations is enormous, but that newly-created conditions call for a fresh, more up-to-date and more efficient approach by the movement in the period ahead.

Charges Against Croatian Figure Rejected

AU1104204589 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 6 Apr 89 p 14

[TANJUG report: "Tintor Is Not Guilty"]

[Text] Zagreb, 5 Apr—The Zagreb District Public Prosecutor's Office has rejected the criminal charges against Gojko Tintor, president of the Croatian Veterans Organization, filed by the Presidium of the Republican Conference of the Montenegro Youth Organization, the Presidium of the Conference of the League of Communists of the Veljko Vlahovic University of Titograd, and the Presidium of the Montenegrin Veterans Organization, in which they accused Tintor of the "criminal act of inciting national hatred."

The plaintiffs claim that at the session of the Presidium of the Croatian Veterans Organization of 20 January of this year, Gojko Tintor, assessing the meeting that took place in Titograd this January, made a number of statements which they had interpreted as a criminal act as defined by Article 134 of the SFRY Criminal Law.

Having established all the relevant facts, the Zagreb District Public Prosecutor's Office rejected the charges because "it did not find any objective or subjective evidence of the criminal act of inciting national intolerance in the speech of Gojko Tintor, or evidence of any other criminal act."

Gasoline, Oil Prices Increase 7 April

LD0804084389 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2059 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Beginning at 2300 tonight [7 April], prices of oil and its derivatives will increase. A liter of 86 octane gasoline will cost 4,200 dinars, a liter of 98 octane gasoline 4,500 dinars, and a liter of unleaded 4,700 dinars. The price of diesel D-1 will be 3,700 dinars, and D-2 will be 3,600 dinars. (?A liter of) oil for heating will cost as much as a special oil for heating—1,900 dinars.

Refinery prices of other derivatives and mineral oil have been raised by 20.04 per cent, and the production price of gas by 25.26 per cent. [passage omitted]

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